California GARDEN

SINCE 1909

APRIL-MAY—1964
VOL. 55 — NO. 2 — 35 CENTS

ORCHIDS

ROSES

IRIS FOR SAN DIEGO

TREES FOR CORONADO

FLOWER SHOWS

1964

April		
3-4-5	ORCHID SHOW	CONFERENCE BLDG., BALBOA PARK S.D. County Orchid Society
4- 5	IMPERIAL BEACH GARDEN CLUB	COMMUNITY CENTER 825 Coronado Ave., Imperial Beach
11-12	ROSE SHOW "Roses Round The World"	ELECTRIC BLDG., BALBOA PARK S.D. Rose Society
18-19	CARLSBAD FLOWER SHOW	CARLSBAD HIGH SCHOOL CAFETORIUM
18-19	FLOWER SHOW "Springtime in Coronado"	SPRECKELS PARK, CORONADO Coronado Floral Ass'n.
25	SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB "At Home in Our Valley"	TOWN HALL, RAMONA
25-26	IRIS SHOW	LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM in ARCADIA So. Cal. Iris Society
25-26	ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB "Our American Heritage"	ESCONDIDO CENTRAL SCHOOL 122 W. 4th St.
May		
1- 2	GROSSMONT CENTER GARDEN CLUB "The Magic of May"	MARSTON'S ORANGE TREE TEAROOM GROSSMONT CENTER
2- 3	IRIS SHOW "Salute to Tom Craig"	FLORAL BLDG., BALBOA PARK S.D. & Imperial Counties Iris Society
9-10	FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB "Remembering Mother"	MAIE ELLIS CAFETORIUM FALLBROOK
9-17	JULIAN WILDFLOWER SHOW	TOWN HALL, JULIAN
16-17	POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB "Around the World with Flowers"	POWAY HIGH SCHOOL
17	GERANIUM AND HERB DISPLAY	SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSN. BLDG. Balboa Park, 10-5 p.m. Visitors welcome.
August		
1- 2	DAHILA SHOW	CONFERENCE BLDG., BALBOA PARK S.D. County Dahlia Society

GARDEN TOURS

APRIL

4 St. James-By-The-Sea, La Jolla. 5 gardens. Ticket $2.50. Tea at La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. Bus Transportation. Reservations, 459-3421.

18-19 Rancho Santa Fe Garden Tour begins at its own club house. 5 Houses and Gardens. $3.50. Tea. Transportation. Group rate—10 or more—$3.00. 756-1554.

18-19 Coronado Floral Association Garden Tour starts from Flower Show in Spreckels Park, Coronado. A ticket to the Flower Show entitles one to a map of the gardens on display.

MAY

2 Clairemont Woman's Club Garden Section. Begins at 5011 Northhaven Ave., Clairemont. 5 gardens. Emphasis on children's gardens, play and recreational areas. Donation $1.00.

15 Point Loma Garden Club. Bus tour to Julian Wildflower Show. Reservations, Mrs. Weldon Downs, 223-3468.

JUNE

Hips and Thorns has budding plans for a bus trip to Descanso Gardens at La Canada to visit the Old Rose Gardens. Call San Diego Floral Association, M-W-F, 232-5762 for information.

THE COVER

Cattleya Barbara Dane var. 'Perfection'. A very fine breeder plant from the Ilsley Orchid Range in West Los Angeles.

THE BACK COVER

'Granada,' an introduction by Howard's of Hemet. A floriferous freely growing plant. It is at its best in spring and fall when it is covered with flame-colored blooms. The rose has tones of red, yellow, and peach with red predominating.

In 1962, cuttings of this rose were sent to Granada by Bob Lindquist. In August, 1963, the Lindquists visited Granada and were entertained by the Mayor, Exmo. Sr. D. Manuel Sola Rodriguez Bolivar. They witnessed the planting of 'Granada' in El Jardin del Triumfo.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Balboa Park

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

APRIL - MAY, 1964

VOLUME 55 NO. 2

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Spring is here. A burst of energy, enthusiastic new growth, renewal of life, fairness and beauty: are we describing the garden or the gardener? For this is the premier season for both plants and people.

And myriad insects, fungii, gophers, viruses, worms and related blights who are as determined as we to enjoy the fruits of the Spring season. There is no more critical period for the control of pests and diseases than the present. And the job becomes more and more complex, as will be discussed later. For the moment, we suggest the following:

Control of ants (who are themselves harmless to plants), using Chlordane or Dieldrin, so that the ants will not carry aphids, mealy bugs and scale insects from plant to plant—dust or spray around the perimeter of your grounds, the foundation of your house, and criss-cross through and around planting beds, sidewalks and other areas; preventive applications of insecticides and fungicides to lawns to avoid damage by turf fungii and cutworms and lawn moth larvae; general clean-up spray with a multi-purpose insecticide to get existing varmints and leave a residue for succeeding generations; a saturation spray of plants and their areas where fungus complaints may arise, using Captan with its preventive (not curative) properties and low cost; conduct of a program of trapping, gassing or poisoning of gophers and ground squirrels, including encroachment on the vacant lot next door; examination for possible removal of plants infected with incurable bacterial and viral blights; fumigation of soils infested with nematode or soil mealybug; and related precautions. And then follow up through the season with spot treatments as the need is evidenced or anticipated.

Summer and Fall annuals should be planted now between mature spring flowers nearing the end of their productive period. Some suggestions for sunny areas include zinnias and bedding dahlias where there is good air circulation; cosmos, asters, dwarf phlox, marigolds, the year-round lobelia and petunias, African daisies, portulaca, cockscomb, ageratum and scabiosa. Shade plantings should include mimulus, bedding begonias, impatiens, coleus and red salvia (which also does well in full sun in most areas). If you've procrastinated, as most people do, you'll have to set out your perennials from quart or gallon cans for bloom this season—or plant little ones with next year in mind. These include Shasta daisies, delphinium, columbine, coral bells, penstemon, campanula, gerberas and gaillardias. And there are always the masses of color provided by nierembergia, alyssum, nasturtiums, arctotis and coreopsis, Virginian stock and Shirley poppies, whether in bedding plants or from seed.

Exciting news for lovers of unusual plants and tropicals: the *evergreen* plumeria, or frangipani *(Plumeria obtusa,* sometimes called the Singapore hybrid) is to be made available this summer throughout Southern California by Tropicana Gardens. The plants will be sold by a number of retail nurseries. Lovers of Hawaiiana will remember the exotic frangipani in many colors, and some may have seen the evergreen type (which is unusual even in the islands). The evergreen Singapore hybrid has been tested and proven hardy for almost all of Southern California and will be offered on a "guaranteed to thrive" basis. So far the evergreen type has bloomed over half the year in its test areas, and whereas the regular plumeria drop their leaves for the winter even in Hawaii, the Singapore hybrid has remained evergreen in Southern California even when subjected to light

Eighteenth Annual

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frosts. We feel that this plant will become one of the choice specimens in Southern California landscapes and gardens in the next few decades. Several dozens of the regular deciduous plumeria are thriving in our areas, including the well-known twelve-foot specimen in the Sunset demonstration garden at the Arboretum in Arcadia, but this is our first chance at the evergreen type. Let's hope this event foreshadows the introduction of many new adaptable tropicals to the area.

Earlier we mentioned some unusual problems of pests and diseases. In the past five years or so problems have been encountered which are without precedent in the horticultural field, primarily concerning damage by pests and diseases to plants which heretofore have been immune to these attacks. It appears that our traditional pest and disease organisms are developing tastes for new plants, or that new organisms are being imported, or that pre-existing organisms are developing tolerances to standard pesticides. Or all three. For example: previously pest-free eucalyptus infested with oleander aphid and brown scale; poinsettias hit by red spider mites and suffering from water molds in the root zone; fuchsias, of all things, suffering from water molds; a new leaf-spot fungus attacking the trouble-free Indian Hawthorn; root-rot in shore juniper plantings; Cuban laurel thrip denuding the Indian Laurel or *Ficus nitida;* and on and on ad nauseum. And fighting the problem is not so easy as it used to be, what with mites developing a tolerance for Kelthane, scale colonies in multiple broods so that one spraying fails to give control, and so forth. But thanks to an aggressive research program by the pesticide industry new products continually appear to help us keep ahead of the situation.

Water trees and shrubs deeply and repeatedly to leach the accumulation of alkali from the root zone as well as to ensure that deep-rooted plants are supplied with sufficient moisture. Mother Nature appears to have stopped providing us with winter rains, so we have to do the job ourselves. Remember, in clay or adobe soils it takes ten inches depth of water to penetrate six feet deep, and as much more to do a good job of leaching. And these soils absorb water quite slowly, so that several days must be allowed for the leaching and deep irrigation program. Gardeners with sandy or gravelly soils will have an easier job, but it is still necessary.

Ed Ogden

Leo Volz

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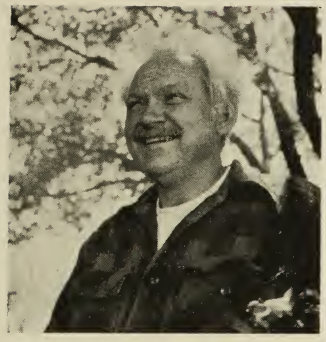
Irises for San Diego



I started this as a casual article. I could not let it go and have spent the last three days and nights going over it. It is hard to put 25 years' experience in a brief form. The whole article is pointed to say grow what will do well for you and give you fine gardens.

Yours,

Tom Craig

I am writing a San Diego article on irises from the Willamette Valley of Oregon with no reference material available. Hence, facts and dates must be given from memory. I grow irises here because many varieties are too difficult to grow in San Diego County. They require a prolonged winter cold and a more pronounced variation in day length. I am also experimenting to satisfy myself about performance of Southern bred irises and daylilies in this climate. Here earth freezes and may stay frozen for weeks. Average rainfall ranges between 50″ and 75″ with over 100″ in the mountains just east of here. Extensive tile drainage systems underlie by plantings yet it is rarely possible to get into the fields with tractors in the winter time unless the ground is frozen. Temperatures rarely drop as low as −15° here; the abundant moisture holds temperatures in winter to between 25° and 45°.

Although most commercial iris growing used to be carried on in California, this has shifted north to the Willamette Valley of Oregon and to southeastern Washington.

In this area almost all Standard Tall Bearded Irises grow to perfection. Practically all respond to the moisture and seasonal change here. As you go south along the coastal strip fewer and fewer of the more publicized iris grow well. San Diego is about as far south along the coast that you can hope to grow many of the irises listed in the large northern catalogs. Less than 10% of them are really at home there. Slightly inland the percentage is much higher especially on the north slopes of the mountains. I have seen well grown iris in Mexico City and in Algeria.

Don't blame Mother Nature if the fancy big iris you buy won't grow! Instead choose them for San Diego. For, from a climate similar to that of San Diego came the species we hybridizers have used to produce the giant garden irises of today. A brief history of iris growing is interesting in itself and also helpful in understanding the correct irises for you to buy and what makes them correct. I will qualify the word irises when I refer to types other than Standard Tall Bearded which are now those most widely grown and coveted. They are rather new to our gardens and constantly being improved upon.

Just before the death of Queen Victoria, collectors and hybridizers in England, France, Germany, and Holland heard more and more about the wonderful giant irises that grew wild in many areas from Cyprus into India. They were increasingly collected through this area and brought to home gardens. The great anatomist and garden enthusiast, Sir Michael Foster, engaged missionaries to collect and send them to him, for he was too occupied by his work to collect them himself. This collection and the work done with it by Foster and his friend George Yeld started the rapid advance in iris hybridizing in England that was continued especially by Dykes and Bliss. They made good use of them without really understanding them genetically. This growing genetic knowledge of irises is very new and so is any usable classification of irises. Most of the group names we use for hybrids such as Standard Tall Bearded have been defined in the last decade.

Irises began to be important garden plants in Southern California shortly after the first World War. For awhile California was almost unchallenged as the center of the iris world. Dr. Stillman Berry, who enthusiastically started many of the productive hybridizers on this important work, still lives in Redlands in the same home we remember as the stimulating horticultural museum and workshop of this area. He had an extensive collection of irises of many types. Everything interested him. He has the born teacher's complete generosity with his information which with the iris is encyclopedic. He introduced Sydney Mitchell to William Mohr. The friendship of this pair produced top iris and a brilliant group of hybridizers developed in the bay area from this start. Two of the first Dykes Medals came to members of this group. He started Clarence White in hybridizing and was the greatest influence in starting Carl Milliken. The valuable Milliken hybrids were based on early Berry hybrids, especially Mauna Loa, the first giant red. Most of my reblooming irises, especially the reds, browns, plicatas, fancies, and

blends are descendants of Mauna Loa. It gave us perfect growing habits, giant size and a start toward warm glowing colors and perfect towering stems.

These giant Standard Tall Bearded are very easily grown in the San Diego area because they are descendants of *Iris mesopotamica.* They make a magnificent display over a long period. *Mesopotamica* gives the greatest vigor and finest structure of any of the big wild iris. Because it comes from a very warm frost free climate it requires no winter rest. The iris breeders in colder climates have yearned to use it extensively but have run into trouble with its early growing habit. This early growth, in soft condition at the time of a late freeze, means frequent frozen buds. In Oregon, the masses of heavy soft growth in the wet spring means foliage diseases or frequent spraying, for these problems are intensified in damp climates. Our California bred iris have grown very well here but they do require spraying for spores are carried to them by the winds. Every farmhouse around has its iris bed naturalized, a constant source of windblown spores.

This winter growth is most desirable for San Diego area conditions. Few iris that go wholly dormant have any value there because they grow so poorly. Hybridizers have given *mesopotamica* hybrids their garden importance. The wild form is a remarkably dull medium-lavender color and the huge showy flowers are without real style. The other giant Standard Tall Bearded species are much the same in color, some a bit lighter or a bit darker.

One form of *I. kashmiriana* in Foster's garden was white and from this are descended many of our modern irises—not only white but a great variety of colors and patterns. Two collected tetraploids Macrantha (parent of Dominion, Ib-Mac, etc.) and the shorter but similar Amas offered substance, style and deeper color to early hybridizers. I had Macrantha and used it long ago but know nothing about Amas because I was told by the "old-timers" that Amas and Macrantha were the same. There's obvious confusion here in the records as there is in the group of Ricardii, *mesopotamica, trojana,* and *cypriana.* I grew the first two and used them years ago. They were practically identical flowers and differed primarily in the stem. The important thing is that about ten giant tetraploid species and collected clones furnished fine plant structure and enough variation in genes to give a start toward improving quality and adding variety. From the very first every possible source of new genes have been sought for to continue progress. There are uncountable hundreds of different wild irises grouped into about 200 species by able recent study.

New gene sources for variation are going into the work at a more rapid pace than ever before. A brilliant group under Dr. L. F. Randolph at Cornell is clarifying the genetic problems so rapidly that hybridizers generally are not able to keep up with this new understanding and its many possible applications. Dr. Lee W. Lenz, director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont is carrying on important research with irises. His new material will soon be available. For many years many big growers have been saying, "All the important work has been done! We now have nearly perfect iris in all possible colors!" Don't believe this. Very fancy things are in the hybridizers heads. Much new material and knowledge is here to stimulate progress.

Our modern Standard Tall Bearded iris are unchallenged by any other garden flower in beauty of form, color, and pattern. Knowledge of the wild forms whose genes have produced these makes the garden flowers even more astonishing. Many of the most beautiful wild irises have still contributed little or nothing to garden plants due to complex only partially understood genetic problems that may soon be solved.

Wild irises band the earth in a similar position, but a bit wider than

VENGEANCE **Lithograph by Author**

the north temperate zone. The couple of hundred species does not give a hint of the extreme variation in plant and flower structure, size, color and especially growth requirements that occurs among these. For example, one large group known as the Junos contains some large flowered species that are among the most beautiful wild flowers. Yet the petals of the entire group are inconspicuous to minute. An elaborate tripartate petaloid pistil and the sepals constitute the flower mass. Some of the species look like sweet corn plants with flowers tucked between each leaf and the stem. I had a helmet full of Juno one November in Algeria. I have grown other sorts from seed collected in Lebanon-Israel area. From curiosity I grew others as did Dr. Berry. They are dependant upon a fragile curious storage system of a bunch of long root vegetables insecurely glued to the bottom of a small tub. To illustrate beauty linked to curious variation and a hopeless garden cause, they are perfection.

Actually, bulbous iris are not for us either. Few like San Diego climate and the commercial bulbous irises that do like it soon deteriorate with incurable viruses quickly transmitted by insect vectors that also love the climate and the irises. Grow the bulbous iris but replace them often with new clean stock.

The numerous beardless are in nature most widely distributed. Like the bearded, they grow from rhizomes. California native iris fall in this group. They are available, useful but hate high soil pH. Plant them where you plant camellias. Don't try to collect wild ones for few sorts adopt to gardens. Grow *douglasiana, innominata* and their hybrids. *Munzii* is very fine but not readily available.

Others in this group are the siberians. Most of these grow poorly in San Diego. Caesar's Brother is best here. Louisiana swamp iris grow quite well in San Diego, especially Berry's old hybrid Cacique. Any of the Abbeville Reds are fine as are the wild blue forms and many of the new hybrids. This group offers real beauties for intimate spots. They are now important for a big show. Use them instead of Japanese iris which are tops in proper soils with p r o p e r water. Because neither are available in Southern California, don't plant them.

The spurias are our best beardless irises in San Diego. They have the most beautiful foliage and very good flowers. The best sorts were bred in California. From the first, various growers made limited crosses and a few hybrids were introduced. Eric Nies did the most extensive hybridizing and developed the greatest variety in spurias ever achieved at the time of his death. He is the important pioneer in this field. Carl Milliken did much less with them and introduced only a few. His importance is based primarily on the fact that his variety Wadi Zem Zem was the greatest advance ever achieved in this field. It possessed great size, perfect full form, disease resistance, and unusual vigor. I worked with species, the early Eastwood and Sass hybrids as well as Wadi Zem Zem and the Nies hybrids. Although most of my work was lost, the early introductions I made are very much worth growing because they were selected for vigor as well as quality. Marion Walker of Ventura and Walker Ferguson of Escondido are now the leaders in spurias. Many others are working with them and Bill Wylam and Mrs. Frances Combs of the Los Angeles area have seedlings of high quality.

The crested irises are native of eastern U.S., Japan, and China. All are exquisite delicate shade plants and I have grown practically all the species and named hybrids in Southern California. Plant them where you would plant camellias. They are worthwhile for avid gardeners. Paltec is the introduced hybrid of crested and bearded irises. It is sterile as are the unintroduced hybrids. If you wish to work with these do read the latest literature. I have had letters from Germany that promise advances. I have read of similar work in England.

If I name *Iris nepalensis* and state that it is structurally so different it is placed apart from other irises, I will say all I know of it and will have pretty much covered the field except for all the very near relatives of our favored Standard Tall Bearded.

Most of the wild irises with beards have some chance of crossing with some other beard bearing iris. However, there are two main groups: the true bearded irises or eupogons, and the arils which include oncos, regelias, and pseudoregelias. The arils are separated from the others by the fleshy aril collar attached to their seeds. This is an easy character to separate this very different group. Their flowers resemble Standard Tall Bearded.

The five pseudo-regelias comprise a small group I have never seen. The true regelias are r e l a t i v e l y small flowered, about 3". They are native to a small area just east of the Caspian Sea. They are not for casual gardeners. I have grown the species and have used them, and as well, their fertile crosses with oncocyclus, dwarfs and Standard Tall Bearded.

I still have many hybrids in the garden that I always plan to use more than I ever do. They offer new and tempting genes for further hybridizing but also faults of flower-plant proportions in their use with tall bearded. The Dutch breeders used them to give more vigor to their oncocylus relatives. Almost all the C. G. White oncobreds have some regelia blood. Many collected forms are grouped in 10 species.

About fifty onco species grow wild in a wide area from the Mediterranean to the Caspian in climates varying from near tropic deserts to cold mountain conditions. They are the "Lillies of the Field" of the Bible. The ancient middle east is their home, Israel and all the lands bordering it northward through Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, eastward into northern Mesopotamia and Persia and into a bit of Southern Russia.

In this group is the largest wild iris, *I. gatesii* and a number of the most beautiful flowers of any kind known to man. I should say to a few men. They are absolutely defeating for most human temperaments and ordinary garden conditions. No one should attempt seriously working with the species without real dedication to it. He should have abundant time or money—preferably both plus freedom from responsibility. Any interruption or interference to break the spell and divert attention from them can mean quick catastrophe and defeat. I know. Genes of this group permeate many of my breeding lines and will continue to do so. I want more color and pattern breaks such as I have seen and lost. At least a bit of oncocyclus in about a third of my 1963 hybrid seeds. Because this group comes from a dry climate its derivatives are not badly adjusted to Southern California. However, the inland mountain areas are better especially for the wild forms.

Although early work with the arils started in Holland, almost all important work on modern oncocyclus hybrids has been done by Californians: first, by William Mohr. Frank Reinelt's work was perhaps the most intensive of any, but most of it was lost

Tom Craig Selects

GOOD IRISES FOR SAN DIEGO
(Tested for this area — Easily Available)

DWARF — BLACK BABY	— a deep purple, is the best dwarf performer I have grown.
TABLE — WARBLER	— a yellow used to please me most.
TRUE CHARM	— a pleasant plicata. Many in this group are vigorous.
INTERMEDIATES — SOUTHLAND	— a yellow rebloomer, good.
BORDERS — MOONCHILD	— amethyst.

Standard Tall Bearded Iris

*—Favorites for San Diego
R—Reblooms RR—Reblooms very heavily

PALE PINK & APRICOT
*Beaucatcher (RR)
*Cathedral Bells
Cloudcap
*Happy Birthday (R)
*Luscious (R)
*Orange Creamo
*Pink Confection (R)
Palamino
Oriental Pearl

DEEP PINK, ROSE & ORCHID-PINK
*Cyclamen Rose
*Nell Babson (R)
*Orchid and Flame (RR)
*Winter Rose (RR)

BLACKS
Black Hills
*Black Orchid
*Raven Wing
Sable Night
Tabu

RED & DEEP ROSE
*Ambush (R)
Big Ute
*Bang
*Crimson Maple
*Desert Rose (R)
*Firebright (RR)
*Lois Craig (RR)
*Marrakesh (R)
*Port
Savage (RR)
*Zombie

YELLOW
*April Showers (R)
Channel Islands
Country Butter
Fusileer
Gold Sovereign
Irma Melrose
*Springtime Madonna (RR)
*Montecito
Golden Anniversary
*Starfire
Starshine

PALE BLUE
Cahokia
*Crystal
Blue Serene
*Eleanor's Pride
Frances Craig
Mission Starlight
*Regina Maria
*Rehobeth
Blue Sapphire

BROWN
Ali-Baba
*Ball Gown (RR)
Dark Chocolate
Donna
*Escondido
*Ginger
*Golden Tan
*Lady Albright
Malay
Oriental Glory
Thotmes III

PLICATAS
*Blooming Love
Blue Shimmer
Burgundy Splash
Crown Point
Dotted Swiss
Firetail
Full Circle
*Joseph's Mantle (RR)
*Kazak
*Riptide
*Rodeo (R)
*Vengeance
*Victorian Veil
Zulu Warrior

MEDIUM BLUE
Blue Rhythm
*Blue Silhouette
Dancing Deb
*Headlands
Mystic Lakes
*Ruffled Taffeta

BICOLORS
*Elizabeth Noble
*Tom Tom
Pagan Princess (R)
Pinnacle (R)

GREENISH
Cool Comfort
*Char-Maize
Green Pastures
Spellbinder
*Winged Goddess
*Woodland Sprite

ONCOBREDS
Capitola
*Coronation Tapestry
*Engraved
*Fancywork
Kalifa Gulnare
*Lady Mohr (RR)

WHITE
*Cascadian
Chinese White
*Flame Kiss (R)
*Patricia Craig
Snow Goddess
Veiled in Mystery
White Peacock
White Ruffles
*Clean Sweep

PURPLE & VIOLET
*Brigadoon
*Violet Harmony
Royal Giant
Violet Ruffles

DEEP BLUE
Blue Violet
Indiglow
*Mary McClellan (R)
*Steeplechase (RR)
Pierre Menard

BLENDS
China Maid (R)
Dark Continent (R)
Figuerine

except his extremely important breeder "Capitola." Clarence White's work was the most persistent and tenacious. It really established this whole field for it produced a wedge that is breaking the persistent barrier of sterility that has blocked real progress in the past. Other important Californians are: Austin, Kerr, Jory, Luihn, Abel, Slamova and Hawkinson, D. Foster and various Craigs. Tom and Wiloh Wilkes are far the most important oncocyclus breeders at this time. Out of state, Linse, Plough, and Noyd are important in Washington. Sundt in New Mexico and Muhlestein in Utah.

The oncos must have been grown by the wealthy and powerful since flowers were first planted in the Fertile Crescent. Reports go back hundreds of years. Their unusual pattern, form and color has impressed men deeply. Styles and innovations in architecture and the plastic arts derive from surroundings and experiences of those initiating them. Photographs of the architectural triumphs of northern Persia reveal them to be giant oncocyclus blooms reborn in stone, mosaics, and intricately patterned tile. Basic structure, surface decoration, and emotional impact are the same. It is no coincidence these iris are native to this area.

Should you grow these too? This is a provocative question! Gardens are made to be enjoyed. To achieve this, what should you plant? What sort of irises should I develop for YOU to grow? No one finds all the answers to life in a garden. Gardens are often demanding children who demand more than you wish to give. Some gardeners find greatest pleasure in accepting the challenge to grow the rarest and most difficult beauty. I will go along to watch and encourage THEM. I have felt that way. For ME, no! I reject this wholly, categorically and dogmatically.

I wish to develop and distribute plants that give maximum results for minimum effort. This is the professional point of view in contrast to that of hobbyiest or amateur. Yes, I will continue to grow the hard ones when I think they may help my work. Some of the most rewarding irises for San Diego are partially derived from oncos, notably Mary McClellan.

The true bearded irises, or eupogons are outnumbered in wild forms

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GROOMING ROSES for the SHOW

By Clive Pillsbury
Past President, S.D. Rose Society

Good grooming separates prize-winning roses from the common lot. While only one phase of a sound program of cultural practices embracing such fundamentals as planting, pruning, fertilizing, mulching and watering, it is probably the most vital to show success.

In a broad sense, grooming begins about two weeks before the show. No additional nitrogen should be given during this period; in fact the use of any during the final four weeks is undesirable.

Excess nitrogen at this time may promote vegetative growth at the expense of bloom development or may spark oversize blooms of soft, limp texture. Other end products are willowy stems, abnormal sepals, split centers, and outer petals with disfiguring creases. Not all such imperfections may be traced to excess nitrogen, but late use of nitrogen is responsible for considerable imbalance in flower development.

Step up your watering program now. Give one deep watering per week and a light watering in between. If you use overhead sprinkling or a rainbird, turn to hand watering as blooms start to open so as to avoid waterlogging a bloom.

Check potential exhibition blooms daily. If stems are limber on some promising ones, stake them lest thorns on adjoining canes tear the foliage as they sway in the breeze.

Augment your pest control program by spot dusting and hand elimination of aphids, caterpillars, and assorted insects. Don't wait for the weekend to break out the power sprayer. One of the instantly-ready, hand-action dust guns is invaluable for trouble shooting whenever a few minutes are available.

Cutting blooms may start five to seven days before the show. Best storage is that afforded by the moist cold of an old-fashioned ice box, but many successful exhibitors use the family refrigerator. Defrost and wash the storage compartment before using it for roses, and make any necessary temperature control adjustment. The temperature should never be permitted to drop to freezing; 34° minimum to 40° maximum is about right.

Wash and sterilize containers to be used for rose storage. Water for storage should be boiled to kill any bacteria and then cooled to room temperature.

Storage of milk, butter, and eggs is compatible with roses, also most packaged foods, but fruit, cheese and any other product likely to give off gas is out.

Take a water-filled bucket into the garden when cutting roses. Any rose cut days ahead of a show should be somewhat tighter than point of perfection. While the natural opening process will be greatly retarded, proper storage temperature will allow some development of the bloom. Temperatures low enough to suspend this development will impair quality.

Having selected a bloom for cutting, first check it over. It is much easier to clean the foliage while the rose is on the bush and you have two free hands. It is also probable that more time is available than on the morning of the show.

Stem length should be in pleasing proportion to the size of the bloom. Generally, stem length should be four to six times the depth of the bloom. It should have a minimum of three five-leaflet or seven-leaflet leaves, but preferably four or five sets. Allow an extra inch or two of stem when cutting for storage so that a fresh cut may be made when preparing the bloom for the exhibition container. Cut the stem on an angle for maximum water take-up. Plunge it immediately, almost up to the bloom, in water of air temperature. Carrying the cut stem in your hands or a basket allows air to be taken into the stem and this may seriously impede absorption of water when the rose is finally immersed.

About the water temperature. It is understood that the rose is going into cold storage, yet the rose should be started off in water of about 60° since it is most readily taken up at room temperature. A rose provided with optimum moisture retains its substance best.

Roses going into the ice box need no further attention except for an identification label. You may think that you couldn't possibly make a mistake about the identity of a rose from your garden, but this happens quite easily in the excitement of show morning.

Roses going into a refrigerator should be hooded so that dry cold will not extract bloom moisture and impair flower substance. Individual hoods may be made of waxed paper, butchers' paper, pliofilm, or a similar product. Many exhibitors place several roses in a large container. They then add a stick (doweling will do) higher than the roses as support for the hood. This is good practice, but caution must be exercised lest thorns tear foliage when adding or taking from the container. Your containers should be tall and straight-sided to properly support the roses. Blooms in flared vases develop stem curvature. Water depth should be about one-third the length of the stem.

We are now ready to consider the afternoon and evening before the show. Make an inventory of roses in storage and of potential show blooms yet in the garden. If you are going to leave for the show before sunrise or are going to be hurried, list every rose to be checked in the morning or affix a prominent marker (white shows up best by flashlight) to facilitate morning-of-the-show harvesting.

Ideal timing will bring your roses to the cutting stage the night before or the morning of the show. There is no substitute for freshness. Substance, color, and sheen on such roses will be unimpaired by storage, the foliage will not be water-logged, and such roses will stand out naturally. You will also avoid the blue cast picked up by some red roses in darkness (light on in the refrigerator will help curb this).

Night-before roses need not be refrigerated. They will harden properly in deep water in a cool, dark spot that is free from a draft.

With your inventory of roses and a show premium list, make tentative decisions on blooms for trophy classes. Some of these will call for three, four, or six different hybrid tea roses, All-America winners, or grandifloras.

Having earmarked certain blooms for your most important entries, start filling out entry tags, but leave the names of roses to be added at the show. Then fill out entry tags for three's of a kind, singles, etc.

Double-check color classifications and rose nomenclature. It is easy to slip up. A rose that is medium red here may turn out light red in most parts of the country and be so classified.

About nomenclature. I recall a recent Southern California show in which an entry labeled "K. T. Marshall" was penalized by a discerning judge because this rose was introduced as "Katherine T. Marshall" and the exhibitor had abbreviated the first name.

Study the premium list. If a class calls for six roses of a kind any deviation is cause for disqualification. The entry is not improved by a seventh rose nor is it acceptable with five. If there is any specification that you do not understand, check with the entry committee or ask an experienced exhibitor to clarify the class requirements. Avoid the embarrassment of having a potential winner disqualified. This happens at every show.

Windup night-before chores by stowing your grooming kit, filled-out entry tags, premium list, Modern Roses, and other pertinent gear in your car. If you are using a sedan instead of a station wagon, take out the back seat to make space for roses and containers. Some exhibitors employ especially made trays, racks, or carrying devices; others use milk bottle holders, while yet others gather short pieces of 2 x 4 to separate loose containers lest they slide around en route to the show.

If there's any chance that working space will be at a premium, consider taking along a card table to assure elbow room for preparing your entries.

This takes us to the zero hours the morning of the show. Cut such blooms as are ready in the garden, plunge them in deep water, and start loading the car with freshly cut blooms and all those from storage.

On arrival at the show, gather enough containers of appropriate size for the entries you plan to make, get a foothold at a working table, draw a supply of water for the containers, and unload your car.

CHAMPAGNE Howard's of Hemet

While roses from storage will be in ice cold water, it is best to use warmer water (60° is ideal) in the exhibition vases. Blooms in the show will be exposed to stress from air circulation and relatively high temperatures. The life cycle of the rose will be speeded up. The blooms demand for water, accelerated by loss through evaporation, will be greater than that afforded by the slow movement up the stem of ice water. Any degree of wilt resulting will impair petal substance.

Critically examine your roses now. This evaluation may change trophy-class selections. Assemble roses for the most important class first. Then bring out your grooming kit.

A good kit will contain a number of items, generally starting off with an apron with generous front pockets for such essentials as nylon for light polishing of dull foliage (use of oil, wax, or other foreign substances is taboo), an artist's camel's hair brush for shaping a bloom or flicking off an aphid; a small bottle of water and vinegar (a teaspoon of vinegar to about two ounces of water) and some cotton swabs for removing mildew and spray residue; a pair of cuticle scissors, nippers, shears, and a glass towel (leaves no lint) for wiping your hands. Other items that belong, for convenience, in the grooming kit are: a couple of pencils (with erasers) for filling out entry tags (ink smears when wet and water is plentiful around the roses), a supply of entry tags, a premium list, a buyer's guide, a full ARS color classification list (if available), a copy of Modern Roses and any annuals published since the last edition, and a supply of name stickers for speedy preparation of entry tags.

Many varieties of roses may be "dressed" by removal of outer guard petals. Reasons justifying removal include discoloration, a blemish such as evidence of insect damage, diminutive size, and improvement of the bloom's

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TOURS FOR MEMBERS

Monthly garden tours are open only to members of the San Diego Floral Association.

Since October, when the garden tours began, the gardens of the following people have been seen. Mrs. John G. Clark, Miss Katherine Sneve in La Jolla; Dr. David Higbee, Mrs. H. Fox on Point Loma; Dr. and Mrs. Purvis Martin, Mr. and Mrs. H. Robert Kaplan in Mission Hills; and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller in El Cajon.

For further information call 232-5762 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

You
are invited to join
The
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Classification of Memberships:

Individual	$ 3.50
Family	$ 5.50
Sustaining	$10.00
Contributing	$25.00

- Monthly meetings featuring outstanding speakers
- A 500-volume library for your use
- Membership includes subscription to CALIFORNIA GARDEN bi-monthly magazine.

San Diego Floral Association
Balboa Park, San Diego 1, Calif.

Please enroll me as a.....
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.....
.....
.....

On March 22, 1964 two Mission Hills gardens will be open. Dr. R. H. Sundberg at 4430 Arista Drive expects a fine display of bloom with bulbs, azaleas and rare cymbidium. His glassed-in garden-house provides a lovely view of Presidio Park and Mission Bay.

The C. Wesley Halls, at 2388 Pine Street, are grooming their large collection of brilliantly hued cinerarias as the stars of their show in a formal shade garden hedged by tall eugenias for complete privacy.

The April 26th tour offers a grand sweep of landscaped beauty in a walk-through of three spacious gardens: The Arthur and Mary Marstons and Phillip Barney which join on the slopes of seventh Avenue at Upas. Unusual diversity may be seen here ranging from wildflowers on the canyon slopes to formal gardens. For more detail on the Marston garden, see CALIFORNIA GARDEN, December 1962 — an article by Alice W. Heyneman.

On May 10th, Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Troxell will show, at 4950 Canterbury Drive their collection of 700 epiphyllums at their peak and 100 roses. A variety of annuals makes a colorful cascade which falls 400 feet into the canyon.

San Diego Floral Association

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ORCHIDS

YOUR WONDER WORLD OF ENJOYMENT

BY BYRON GEER

Vice-Pres., San Diego County Orchid Society

You have wandered around, losing yourself in a new world of beauty at San Diego's annual Orchid show. Perhaps you have admired the regal corsages and flower arrangements shown proudly by friends. You have a green thumb with plants and take pride in showing off your garden accomplishments. But have you ever seriously considered the culture of Orchids for your own use and pleasure? In all probability you have been frightened off by the host of popular misconceptions regarding the limitations of these exotic plants. While it is true that the growing of Orchids is not easy, the rank beginner who is willing to devote time and dedicated effort can do an excellent job. All that is needed is intelligence and patience, the two ingredients priceless to any gardener.

The first obstacle for those who have never known the joy of Orchids is generally one of price, since plants of this family have the reputation of being expensive to purchase and maintain. This is true of the top quality plants; those that win the gold medals and the silver cups. Such plants may cost from hundreds to thousands of dollars each, but they are in the hands of private growers and seldom offered for sale at any price. Yet ordinary commercial quality plants, with blooms suitable for wearing, decoration or just visual enjoyment, are available and within the means of the most modest purse. Good Orchids in bloom, or of blooming size, may be had for as little as six dollars per plant, and unbloomed seedlings, if you have an adventurous spirit, are frequently offered in the trade today at one to two dollars apiece.

The initial price of the plant is only one phase of the expense, however. How about the erection and maintaining of a heated greenhouse? Well, here in southern California we are blessed with a temperate-subtropical climate which very nearly duplicates the ecological requirements of many of the Orchidaceae. A number of the genera may be grown out-of-doors with only the protection afforded by a lath or plastic shelter. Additional heat will not be required and, indeed, in some cases is not desirable. The Cymbidium comes to mind first with its long-lasting, graceful spikes of ten to twenty flowers. Its ease of culture, inexpensive price and rich shower of bloom has made it the most popular genus grown. But there is also the Cypripedium, intensely colored, heavy textured and exotic, looking and feeling as if it were carved from wax. It may be grown outdoors too, with the Cymbidiums, and it will reward you in late winter and early spring with flowers lasting six weeks on the plant. A group of blooming Cyps in your garden is an absolutely sure eye stopper. Apart from these two favorites there are many other genera that thrive under cool conditions. By selection of species you may enjoy the elegant, airy Oncidiums; the richly tinted Odontoglossums; the arresting color contrast of the Zygopetalum or the delicate pastels of the reed stem Epidendrums. All these, and many more. Certainly a greenhouse it not imperative to the enjoyment of Orchids.

There seems to be a common opinion that Orchids are overly fussy about their other growing conditions. On the contrary, they definitely are not. Cattleyas, and their alliance with the Laelias and Brassavolas, are probably the most demanding in cultivation, and this only because of a need for minimum temperatures not less than 55°. A greenhouse or warmer area will be necessary for this group, and if your heart beats faster for it, you will be put to some expense to get the most from your Orchids. Ordinarily, if you can give them their five basic requirements in proper proportion, Orchids will respond readily with growth and bloom, and these five basics (Light, Heat, Water, Food, Humidity) are not at all difficult to provide. By proper proportion I mean to satisfy the needs of *your* plants under *your* growing coning conditions. These conditions will not be the same as those of your friend across town, and possibly not even the same as those of your neighbor next door. You will need some information, a little logical thought, a great deal of common sense and generous amounts of Tender Loving Care. Orchids as they grow in nature withstand blazing tropical sun, torrential rains, hordes of insect and animal predators and yet they survive.

Orchids also have the reputation for being delicate plants, subject to all sorts of diseases and pests. The reputation is undeserved, but it must be admitted that good gardening practice must be observed and certain pests kept under control. Keeping your plants clean is no more difficult than with other plants, however. The same scale, aphids and mites present the same problems, and these beasties must be dealt with promptly and efficiently. Prevention is even more important than control, because a pest damaged flower is a poor payment for the weeks of anxious waiting. The bacterial, viral and fungal infections put in an appearance on occasion, but *seldom on a clean, well grown* plant. Here again, if you have trouble it is generally your fault and not that of the plant.

And while we are covering the old wives tales regarding Orchids, it may be wise to lay the 'black' Orchid to rest for the umpteenth time. If your dear old Aunt Minnie really did see a black orchid one time, she should have acquired it at any price, for it would be worth its weight in emeralds to any breeder. Deep purples we have, but the black Orchid does not exist, Aunt Minnie to the contrary.

Perhaps you now have a few Orchid plants and are ready to branch out to broader and greener fields. Or you feel that you are missing something and would like to be a part of the Orchid group. May I offer a few words

of advice? (a) Buy the best Orchid plants within your means. As you see other people's collections, attend Orchid shows and talk to other novice growers you will inevitably compare your plants and flowers. If you have purchased poor quality material it will become evident to you very quickly, and you will be dissatisfied with what you have. This means culling out undesirable plants and a waste of money. Better one good plant of which you can be proud than a dozen for which you feel apologies necessary. (b) Until you have your feet thoroughly wet and know what you are doing, buy only plants in flower. Avoid disappointment by knowing what you are getting. Time enough later to speculate and hope for the best. When you are familiar with the species and breeding lines of the plants offered to you for sale, you can logically forecast color, shape and size of the blossom on an unflowered seedling. Just remember that the pig in a poke frequently turns out to be all fat and no bacon.

(c) Buy only from reputable firms or from private growers in whom you have every confidence. Thousands of hybrids are being offered for sale today, many of them not worth giving house room. A reputable dealer makes his profit from customers who come back for repeat business. He cannot, therefore, afford to peddle junk. (d) Study your plants. Learn their correct names and all that you can about their parents and background. Fuss over them a little in an attempt to determine what they want and need. Their requirements are simple, for the most part, and a critical eye will tell you in plenty of time if all is not well. Find out what went wrong and correct it. If you have done what the books say and your plant hasn't responded as it should, try "going by the baby and not by the book." (e) Go see what others are doing and what their problems are. Share your knowledge and your problems with them. Orchidists are congenial people, only too willing to help the novice individually or as a group. You have the accumulated knowledge of one hundred years of Orchid growing available free for the asking from the old-timers in your local Orchid Society. Take advantage of this by attending a meeting or two as a guest. If the Orchid bug has really bitten you, you will want to join and attend regularly. About half of the membership of your local society will consist of novice growers like yourself, so don't feel that you would be out of place. Beginner classes in which the proper cultural techniques are explained and demonstrated, and novice classes for the showing and judging of your flowers are features of the monthly meetings. (f) And finally, don't get yourself into a position where your Orchids demand more time and trouble than you are willing or able to give them. When your hobby becomes a chore all the fun is gone from it. If you are not enjoying your Orchids, there is no reason for having them, and you will resent and neglect them. If this ever comes about, you and the Orchids will be happier separated.

MINIATURE CYMBIDIUM BO-PEEP VAR. 'CHESTNUT.'

Grower, Byron Geer **Photo, Arnold Cardosa**

Although no Orchid fancier could explain why, the care and maintaining of a collection is usually an intensely personal thing. Each hobbyist has his own methods and procedures generated from his successes or failures of the past. The basic needs are flexible, and as microclimates vary from block to block or even from house to house, so do these needs. Your watering program, your feeding schedule, your light conditions, your temperature range and your comparative humidity are completely different from any other growers. It is the challenge to find out where these variations lie and how they can be adjusted to your plants that makes Orchid growing the fascinating hobby that it is. Do not think that you can grow Orchids if you are unprepared to meet the challenge. If, on the other hand, you are capable of profiting from your mistakes, (and you will make them) perceptive enough to draw logical conclusions from obvious facts, willing to spend the time and effort necessary to do a good job of growing: If, in a word, you are intelligent and sensitive, Orchids are for you. Each new jewel-tipped root, each new growth and leaf, each bloom sheath with its promise of a spectacularly lovely flower to come will be your *real* reward. The 'Ohs' and 'Ahs' of admiration, the heartfelt 'Thank yous,' the inner satisfaction of having been a helper in the creation of such beauty for yourself and others—all that will be just icing on the cake.

GROWING CYMBIDIUMS

By Ralph Ameele

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN - 1964 ORCHID SHOW

Those of us who live along the Pacific Ocean between Point Conception and the Mexican border enjoy particularly favorable growing conditions for cymbidiums. While our fellow cymbidium growers in most other areas around the world must grow their plants in glass-houses during a large part of the year, we have near-perfect growing conditions right in our own back yard.

Today's modern cymbidium hybrid is many generations removed in appearance from its native species ancestor. However, it still likes to grow in the same atmospheric conditions of its forbears in the foothills of the Himalaya Mountains in Southeastern Asia. Specie cymbidiums are found at elevations from 2,000 to 7,000 feet, where the sunlight is brilliant, the rainfall heavy, the daytime temperatures are warm and the nights cool.

Except for the rainfall factor, our coastal climate here in Southern California meets all of the basic climatic requirements for successful cymbidium culture. While Colorado River water is not the best substitute for rainwater, it does provide the necessary moisture to complete the basic growing needs.

Growing conditions are so favorable in coastal Southern California that it has become the largest commercial cymbidium area in the world.

If you live in a frost-free area, you can quickly and easily join the ranks of the cymbidium grower because little or no special equipment is needed. If you live where the temperature drops below 28°, then you will need a plastic or glass house in which the temperature can be controlled. If you live in an area where the night temperature does not drop 20°, particularly during late summer and early fall, then you will require additional control in the form of air-conditioning to successfully flower your plants.

However, let's assume for the sake of this article that you are one of the thousands who live within 5 miles or so of the Southern California coast, and have no intention of erecting a glass-house. All you have is a back yard and a few cymbidiums.

First of all, it should be understood that no two cymbidium growers treat their plants exactly the same way, because no two cymbidium growers have exactly the same growing conditions, the same collection of plants or the same personality. Therefore, two equally fine cymbidium flowers may be, and often are, grown under quite dissimilar circumstances. This article, then, does not contain inviolate iron-clad rules, but rather some broad guidelines, within and around which the individual grower may find that particular way of growing which seems to suit him and his orchids best. Intelligent observation and thoughtful understanding of your own plants will be of more value than another article on how someone else grows his plants.

With this in mind, let's consider what it takes to flower a cymbidium.

LIGHT: About 50% of the normal sunlight seems to be about right for our latitude. Overhead lath or saran shade cloth are the most popular ways of breaking up the direct rays of the sun to prevent burning of the leaves. A tree with medium to light foliage does very nicely, too. If in doubt about whether or not your plants are receiving enough light, it is better to err on the side of too much rather than too little. Your plants may not look as good with an excess of light, but they will certainly bloom more freely than if they receive too little. A good rule of thumb is the color of the leaves: yellow leaves—too much light; greenish-yellow — just about right; lush green—too little light. During the flowering season, shade the plants more heavily. This extra shade will produce clearer color in the flowers, longer spikes and longer lasting flowers.

WATER: The best advice here is never let your plants dry out. Cymbidiums need moisture at the roots at all times. Knowing how often to water will take a little experience, but start off with a thorough soaking about twice a week during the summer and once a week during the winter. Soon you'll begin to sense when your plants need water. You'll lift a plant and notice it feels a little too light, or you will notice a change in the color of the potting material as it dries out. When it's extra hot you'll naturally water more often and during a cloudy, damp period you'll water less. When you do water, water thoroughly. Flush plenty of water through the pot to leach out accumulated salts.

TEMPERATURE: When you grow your plants out of doors there is very little that can be done about the temperature. Fortunately, cymbidiums can adjust admirably to a wide range of temperatures. Last year mine survived a low of 30° and a high of 112°. At the low end a few flower buds were lost and at the high end a few leaves were burned. However, these are about the maximum extremes that I would care to have my plants encounter. Ideally, the summer daytime temperature should be about 70° to 85° and the low night-time temperature in winter 40° to 50°. During the late summer and early fall (August through October) a drop of about 20° between daytime and nighttime temperatures seems to be essential to flower bud initiation. This temperature drop occurs naturally in the coastal areas.

FEEDING: Cymbidiums are normally big husky plants and need more than wind and water to produce strong growths and numerous flower spikes. The potting materials commonly used today contain very little nutritional value, so supplemental feeding is a must. A high-nitrogen fertilizer should be applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations about every two weeks from March 1 through July. This is to promote vigorous vegetative growth. About August 15, shift to a low-nitrogen fertilizer to help induce flower production. Continue with this until the first of the year. From January 1 to March 1 when root action is practically at a standstill fertilizer can be discontinued.

PESTS and DISEASES: Cymbidiums are quite resistant to insects, pests and diseases, but the grower must be on the alert or serious trouble can develop. Snails and slugs can ruin a flower spike in short order. They also

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TREES FOR CORO

A PROJECT OF THE CROWN GA

By FRAN MARSHALL and CATHERINE

A plaintive feminine voice on the telephone, in the Spring of 1963 started the whole tree survey. "I am Mrs. Rotchstein," she said, "and I have just returned to Coronado from a lengthy trip. And all I can think about is how bare the town looks. CAN'T WE HAVE MORE TREES?"

She poured out her complaint on receptive ears, for she was talking to the Project Chairman for the Crown Garden Club, whose project was and is city beautification. Yes, yes, YES the town needs more trees, as do all typical Southern California towns. San Diego is now saying the same thing—"The city looks bare; plant trees."

There was a logical place for the garden club to turn with this problem—to a civic organization nicknamed Operation Mainstreet, (the city beautification committee of the local Chamber of Commerce). This group had been born when the Crown Garden Club was formed in 1959 and adopted its city beautification project. It needed the backing of a representative group of the town's citizens, and approached a leading business man to head it up. He was happy to do so and put on his committee such members as landscape architects, painting contractors, the Public Works Director for Coronado, and the high school art teacher. Eventually the group was incorporated into the Chamber of Commerce, and the scope of their efforts broadened from just the business district to the whole town. They have accomplished much, such as persuading the city to plant $9,500 worth of Palms on the main business street, Orange Avenue. But that is another story. Now back to the tree survey.

Crown Garden Club is represented on the Operation Mainstreet Committee so that the two organizations work closely together. Naturally then, when the garden clubber laid before Operation Mainstreet the problem of too few trees, it was unanimously agreed that a survey was needed, and that the Crown Garden Club should do it. Mrs. Leonard Bassett was appointed chairman of the survey committee, which consisted of Mrs. Ware Marshall, project chairman, Mrs. J. K. Wells, Mrs. Harvey Miller, club president, and Mrs. J. C. Mathews, horticulture chairman.

For background knowledge they turned to the experts. From Roland S. Hoyt, one of Southern California's leading landscape architects and horticulturists, they obtained a list of 43 recommended trees he had compiled several years ago for the San Diego Chamber of Commerce Civic Beautification Committee. Of this number he checked 11 as being especially suitable for Coronado's mild climate, sandy soil with high salt content, and 4 to withstand ocean winds. His list had detailed information on such things as type, habit, height, soil preference, maintenance cost, and so on. Invaluable.

Other recommendations came from the San Diego Gas & Light Company, Chauncy Jerabek, the "Tree Man" of the San Diego Park Department, and "Sandy" Allen, local nurseryman. After digesting these lists, they profited from an analysis of them by Ed Campbell, AILA, and a member of Operation Mainstreet. From his long experience in landscaping in Coronado, and his knowledge of which trees had suffered from frost damage in our big freeze of 1963, he gave his preferences. The final list consisted of the following 14 trees:

CAPE CHESTNUT *(Calodendrum capense)*
BOTTLEBRUSH *(Melaleuca leucadendron)*
CAROB *(Ceratonia siliqua)*
QUEEN PALM *(Cocos plumosa)*
GUADALUPE PALM *(Erythea edulis-armata)*
FLAME EUCALYPTUS *(Eucalyptus ficifolia)*
MAGNOLIA *(Magnolia grandiflora)*
FLAME TREE *(Metrosideros tomentosa)*
PODOCARPUS *(Podocarpus elongata)*
HOLLY OAK *(Quercus ilex)*
BRAZILIAN PEPPER *(Schinus terebinthifolius)*
BRISBANE BOX *(Tristania conferta)*
CANARY ISLAND PINE *(Pinus canariensis)*
VICTORIAN BOX *(Pittosporum undulatum)*

The committee was at this stage of its work when a fortuitous incident at City Council meeting spurred them on. The agenda that day included a request from a resident to have an *Acacia dealbata* removed from the parking strip in front of his house. He had made his request to the City Park Department and been refused. The Public Works Director, who is also City Parks Director, had adhered to City policy of never removing a healthy tree unless it is dangerous. The resident had then taken his request to the City Council. In the discussion on the rostrum the council members refused the plea to remove the healthy tree, and commented there should be

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more trees in town, but that a survey should precede any general planting. program. The existing schedule had been compiled years before, and the very cooperative Public Works Director, Robert Livengood, agreed heartily that a new one was in order. So up popped the Crown Garden Club member who was present, to say her club was already working on such a survey. The council gave a sigh of relief, thanked the club and asked them to continue, with the council's blessings.

One thing the old schedule lacked was an alternate tree for each block. An *alternate* does not mean that someone may take out a tree for no good reason and replace it with the alternate, but it does mean that when someone is about to plant a tree they at least have a choice. So an alternate tree for each block was a must on the new list.

There were other major policy items to decide: How many kinds of trees look well on a block? Did the committee belong to the school which likes a block to be uniform, with all the same kind, or if they preferred a variety, how many kinds? Did they want lots of flowering trees, or were they too messy when they dropped their blooms? Did they think streets which looked naked because only tall palms grew there needed interplanting for a better dressed appearance? Did they intend to schedule any deciduous trees? Did they want natives? Did they want to introduce some trees not heretofore planted locally?

In answer to the first question, the ladies decided they preferred two or three kinds to a block as more interesting than all one kind. For the matter of flowering trees, they decided that in a town where the streets are unusually wide and it will never be possible to have streets which are green arches of touching boughs, that color must substitute. They said, "Color means California." Hence the frequent inclusion of Flame trees, Bottlebrush, Cape Chestnuts, Flaming Eucalyptus. Flame trees would be suggested as a note of cheer around the hospital.

Judging from the sorry sight in the winter of the Alder trees in the Country Club Estates, they decided against deciduous trees. They said, "Verdant trees mean California." And yes, they wanted indigenous trees; if they put in oaks let them be Western oaks, for example. Holly Oak tied in with this thought and also their expressed desire to introduce something new whose worth had been proved elsewhere in like conditions, as did Brisbane Box, both of which were included.

***Melaleuca leucadendron*, ideal for ocean front areas high in salt content.**

In a realistic frame of mind they decided to schedule inter-plantings on palm-lined streets only where there was evidence of good care by the residents, for it is harder to cut the grass in a parking strip if shrubs are in between the trees. But where they thought people would take the extra trouble, they suggested interplantings of Oleander and Bottlebrush. The latter two were also recommended for vacant lots and neglected areas. Thinking of the City's pocketbook (and therefore their own) they scheduled the more expensive trees such as Podocarpus near the parks, new high school, churches and tenderly-cared-for residential areas.

Finally the avid garden clubbers were ready to go, eager beavers out doing their civic duty. For days. And days. In a stopped or slowly moving car they became a traffic hazard and

object of great curiosity to the passers-by, as they suddenly zigged across to look at the sidewalk near a large pine, or zagged back to note down a house with no tree in front, or stopped plunk in the middle of the block as they surveyed the length of it for the overall effect. Not a treeless house, nor a dead tree, nor a good effect eluded them. When they saw a street that was a hodge-podge of different trees they would pick out the most prevalent one and give it priority for further planting (if it were a suitable tree) and list one or two more of the existing trees for alternatives. In reviewing their choices they saw they had such a crazy quilt of different trees in different blocks of the same street that the sheer variety would probably drive the City Park Department out of its mind. This thing was getting difficult.

Their solution was to simplify their lists and be more arbitrary in their choices. But in every block they made sure there were always two choices. After all, it was the problem of no second choice that had been one of the big stumbling blocks in the tree planting around town.

As they made their survey they realized the city had been wise in its 1958 decision to replace California Peppers with Brazilian Peppers, because where the wispy California Peppers predominated the streets looked bare and forlorn. Against a house their tracery could be lovely but set out in the parking strips of Coronado they were not luxuriant and looked sparse.

Shortly after the committee had completed this tedious but pleasurable and sometimes hysterical task the Planning Commission sent them a copy of a resolution proposed by the City Parks Department proposing some changes in the existing schedule such as changing *Acacia dealbata* to Cape Chestnuts, planting Magnolias on Encino Row instead of Copper Wattles, and a few others. They concurred with all the changes but one, and presented the following "Where the City Park Department wishes to change from Alder and California Pepper to Alder and *Melaleuca leucadendron,* we wish to protest. The Alder is completely deciduous, messy, unattractive, in need of frequent spraying, and not popular with the residents of the streets where it grows. We recommend instead *Melaleuca leucadendron* and Holly Oak. We are in agreement on your change from Acacia as not only is the *dealbata* in short supply but too many residents are allergic to its pollen."

Mr. Livengood, the City Parks Director, protested the use of Holly Oak, saying it was not happy in the exceptionally high salt content of the area under consideration (Sixth and Eighth Streets west of Alameda Boulevard.). The Planning Commission adopted the changes and left the second choice in the controversial area up to a later agreement between the Parks Director and the garden club. It was later decided to use either the *Melaleuca leucadendron* or the *Callistemon viminalis.*

At this meeting, the survey was handed to the Planning Commission. The survey made recommendations for future street tree plantings and for substitutions. Further, a detailed list of sites *needing* planting was given to Public Works.

The City of Coronado's budget is sufficient to plant 400 trees in five-gallon cans a year. If an occupant wishes a tree in his parking strip, all he has to do is ask the Public Works Director, listed in the telephone book under the City of Coronado. Publicity in the local press has not brought many requests, so sometime soon the Crown Garden Club, under the guidance of the Parks Director, will visit houses lacking trees and carry the good news that a lovely tree can be planted there at the City's expense. It is hoped that this personal contact by garden clubbers will result in a flood of requests and Mr. Livengood hopes that where new trees are planted they will receive deep watering.

The Crown Garden Club will feel its efforts well repaid if many young trees can soon be planted. The club, now only five years old, and the trees can then grow along together making more beautiful the City of Coronado.

California Pepper (background) gradually being replaced when necessary by the hardier, more luxuriant Brazilian Pepper (foreground), more adaptable to Coronado's soil and climate.

WILDFLOWERS ARE FOR LOOKING

By ELIZABETH SELLON

As the bulldozer and the housing tract take over we are losing a wonderful heritage of wildflowers, that beautiful unearned dividend and extra grace, that garden that took no planting, cultivating, watering or spraying.

When I was a child in 1906, La Jolla was a paradise for wildflower gathering. There were so few people and so many flowers that everyone believed wildflowers were for picking, and decorated their houses accordingly. The houses were mainly near the shore and as there was only one automobile in the village, we all walked to school picking flowers as we went along the unpaved and uncurbed streets.

One morning after a heavy rain the flowers seemed to have come up over night and the hills were suddenly pink with shooting stars, blue with brodeiae and yellow with tidy-tips. When let out for recess the children looked up at the rainbow colored hills and streamed up the mountain side disappearing in the canyons. Teacher came out and rang the big dinner bell calling us back to classes, but hardly a child was in sight. For half an hour we straggled back in little groups with our hands full of flowers. Finally the big boys came, altogether for courage, and handed the teacher a big bunch of shooting stars tied with an old shoestring. Luckily for us she was understanding. She smiled as she took the bouquet and said, "Is this a peace-offering?"

Now the hills are covered with houses and the flowers are carefully cultivated in gardens. But with a little hunting many of the old favorites can still be found especially on the upper slopes of Soledad Mountain and the few unoccupied hills north and south of La Jolla. Usually the shooting stars come first followed by brodeiae and paint-brush, mimulus and wild sweetpea, tidy-tips, the little yellow pansies or violets and the tiny gilia, far too many to list. Even the dainty mariposas come quite regularly, first the lavender lily, and later the gold and brown tulip.

Of course they are all at the mercy of the rains. It is a miracle how regularly you find them, a few even in the driest years. There are still lots of the little sword ferns on the shady side of Soledad. Another kind has a white powder on the back and we used to pat them onto our long black stockings where they left a fine ferny pattern.

Different conditions of rain and sun always bring surprises favoring one variety one year and another the next. You never know just what to except or where to find it. The seed lies in the ground and blooms again whenever we have a wet year. Last year (1963) there were very few, but the year before, a wet year after a long drought, there were great numbers. Torrey Pines Park was particularly exciting. The sea dahlias, an old favorite of mine, and the bush poppies were there, and many others that I had not seen for a long time. The setting on a bright blue day is worth a visit anytime and with the flowers against the sea is simply breath taking. The morning is the best time for seeing with the sun behind you. Just walk along the trail toward the sea from the picnic tables and you will see them everywhere. For many years the honey scent of sage met you as you approached Torrey Pines from the south, but it has gone now, either replaced by the turf of the golf course or smothered by automobile fumes.

Another place worth watching is the coast below the border between Tijuana and Ensenada. Much of the land has never been cleared and the flowers are in their pristine state and were a fine sight in '62.

Some twenty years ago a party of us drove from Tecate to Laguna Hansen, in the mountains back of Ensenada. There we saw the finest display of all. It was a Memorial Day week-end, late for flowers, but it had been an unusually wet year, in fact we bogged down twice in stream beds and had to tow each other out. When we reached the lagoon shore the lupin was so thick that we hated to run our cars off the road to make camp under the pines as we crushed so many. I chose a little hollow for my blanket roll where the white flowers had gathered as though planned by some supernatural gardener. In other places the meadows were pink or yellow or blue, wherever you looked there were flowers. However this trip is not to be undertaken lightly if you are not used to back-road driving. Neither is it necessary to go so far. I have seen masses of lupin on the old Jamul road as fine as in any English garden and there are still many country dirt roads that are worth following in the spring.

Now that automobiles make it easy to go a hundred miles, the desert wild flowers are the most advertised and talked about. They are used to drought and ask for very little water. Besides the heroic way they spring from such unpromising ground is very appealing. Their coming is quite unpredictable. One very dry year when there had been few flowers we were driving towards Mexicali and came suddenly on a little draw where there must have been a private cloudburst, for it was carpeted with verbena and primroses and desert lilies.

This year the verbena came before Christmas in Borrego and all the near desert. No one can remember seeing it so early before and we are eagerly waiting to see what will come later. If you step outside of your house in Borrego at night when the flowers are in bloom you can smell the delicate sweetness of the verbena. Desert shrubs like the Indigo with its deep blue flowers and pale foliage, the wild lavender, and the creosote are equal to anything in a cultivated garden, to say nothing of the amazing spidery ocotillo with its red flowers or the silky blossoms of cactus. Desert dandelions carpet the valley floor and there are several kinds of primrose, lavender and blue phacelia, white and apricot mallow, the beautiful lilies and rare ghost flowers. One spring I identified over eighty kinds within a few minutes walk of our cottage and an expert would have recognized many more. The season runs roughly from February through April, but I have known the flowers to last well into May in a wet year.

If you are looking for a hobby there is much interest in going out with a book and finding the names. I recommend Edith Clements, "Flowers of Coast and Sierra." Although it does not pretend to have them all, the pictures are colored and so well done that they are easy to identify. Of course, it is like fishing, there is as much pleasure in the looking on a fine day as there is in the finding.

ROSES ROUND the WORLD

By JEAN KENNEALLY

ROSARIANS are bound to be curious about every phase of rose growing, and learning the origins of their favorite varieties becomes one of the most fascinating subjects for this curiosity.

FROM THE ORIENT we had the tea roses. These were beautiful in themselves but had no yellow shades, so the hybridizers, notably the Pernets of France, crossed them with Persian Yellow and Austrian Copper and the hybrid perpetuals to give us the race of roses known as hybrid teas. We really owe all of our coppery and yellow shades to these first successful crosses. These first ancestors, Persian Yellow and Austrian Copper, are still grown here but do not really thrive in our coastal climate; they're happier in the mountain areas where the winters provide a dormant period.

Once the race of hybrid teas was established in all its myriad colors, the business of hybridizing began in earnest.

Although Southern California has become the world center of rose hybridizing since the late war, many of the famous European hybridizers are now producing exciting new introductions again, and still are famous for many indispensable standard varieties which have proved themselves in gardens all over the world.

LET'S BEGIN WITH IRELAND —Two of the most famous names in rosedom are its trademarks—McGredy and Dickson. What San Diego Rose Garden would be without Mrs. Sam McGredy, the satisfyingly beautiful climber named for the wife of the original Sam McGredy? Or Sam McGredy himself — that form-perfect creamy yellow show-stopper? And among the newest introductions by the house of McGredy — now in its fifth generation of rose hybridizers—is the hybrid tea 'Mischief,' a rose several San Diego growers are getting enthusiastic about. It joins such old favorites as McGredy's Yellow, McGredy's Ivory, Margaret McGredy, Picture, Shot Silk, Ulster Monarch and the aforementioned Mrs. Sam and Mr. Sam. The current Mr. Sam McGredy visited the west coast recently and was entertained at Hemet by our own famous hybridizer, Bob Lindquist, of Howard's of Hemet. The McGredy roses seem to have an affinity for San Diego, particularly the coastal areas, and very many are grown here.

The other famous Irish house of roses is the Dickson clan; they have many thriving progeny in San Diego: the old and honored Dame Edith Helen, Dickson's Perfection, Dickson's Red, Dickson's Delight, etc. Both of these Irish firms introduce new European and American roses to their local market, and market many of theirs with us.

IN GREAT BRITAIN AND SCOTLAND there are numerous hybridizers and distributors, not strange since the National Rose Society of Great Britain is approaching 60,000 memberships. This represents a huge market and an impressive interest in our Queen of Flowers; of course the British salute the rose as their national flower.

The LeGrice family of Great Britain has entered many contestants in the rose lists, and their current champion, 'My Choice,' is being chosen here also. It will probably be a contender in our local show this year.

The Wheatcroft Brothers of England introduce hundreds of roses to the English and American market, and have recently been instrumental in having a plant patent act established in England, similar to the one we have here. This insures a hybridizer a reasonable return on his investment in a new rose and should encourage more introductions. Local rosarians will remember Harry Wheatcroft as the featured speaker at the 1961 National Rose Convention in San Diego. One of his loveliest introductions is Anna Wheatcroft, a semi-single floribunda almost the color of Tropicana. It is a lovely thing in the garden and very successful as a cut flower, lasting at least a week in the house. Arrangers should love this rose. The tiny yellow bloom of Josephine Wheatcroft is an exquisite miniature, but the plant itself grows about two feet tall in our climate.

The Harkness family of England has sent us some exceptional roses: the glowing red Ena Harkness, Ardelle, the golden Isobel Harkness, the extra vigorous floribunda Frensham (red) and the exhibitors special, William Harvey—a rich aristocratic red.

MEILLAND OF FRANCE must head the list of all the European rose men. It was the House of Meilland which produced Peace, called Mme Meilland originally, and still known as Gloria Dei in parts of Europe. This rose also has a cloak and dagger story connected with it. Scions of Peace were supposedly smuggled out of France to America in diplomatic pouches to escape destruction when the Nazis reached the south of France. Francis Meilland, the young genius who hybridized Peace died in his early forties, but his wife and father are carrying on the work he began. The year of his death they were subjected to another trial—an unexpected and very rare snow storm which damaged the greenhouses where their hybridizing is carried on; many potentially fine seedlings were frozen. Wonderful roses continue to come from the Meillands however, and here we grow the beloved Michelle Meilland, Baccara, Belle Blonde, Bettina, Charles Mallerin, Cocorico, Eden, Grand Mere Jenny, Grand Gala, Happiness, Lady Elgin, Mme Henri Guillot, Tzigane, White Knight (called Message in France) and many many more.

MATHIAS TANTAU OF HOLSTEIN, GERMANY produced one of the most exciting introductions in recent years — Tropicana, called Super Star in Europe. He also introduced the sister seedling of Tropicana, Fritz Tiedemann which has a more beautiful bloom but is a weaker plant than Tropicana. This is the house which previously introduced Floradora, which became the parent of a new race of roses known as grandifloras. Herr Tantau had a rugged time during the war, his rose fields were ploughed up for food crops and much of his work was lost; however, he is now sending wonderful roses to the world, and some

of his prolific floribundas in public plantings all over Europe are exposing miles of camera film of American travelers.

IN DENMARK the Poulsen family is also noted for the production of floriferous colorful bedding plants of many floribunda types. Svend Poulsen, who addressed a meeting of the Southwest District, ARS, in Riverside a few years ago is a man as gracious as his roses and most famous for the floribundas he named for each of his daughters; Else Poulsen, Kirstin Poulsen, Grethe Poulsen; also Poulsen's Yellow, Irene of Denmark and others.

IN SPAIN the foremost hybridizer is Pedro Dot, whose roses, like those of McGredys of Ireland, seem to have an affinity for San Diego. He has given us Angels Mateu, Condesa de Sastago, Girona, Duquesa de Penaranda, Pedrables, Pilar Landecho, and Linda Porter.

ITALY has always been a natural for roses, their climate being very similar to ours; colorful roses from Italy are happy in our gardens. Old and tried roses are Signora, Rome Glory, Saturnia. One of the newer varieties is Don Juan, a very dark red pillar type.

The American Rose Society serves as the international clearing house on rose naming, any rose in international commerce is cleared through the ARS committee on nomenclature. This may explain why many European introductions have very American sounding names. It is advantageous to market a rose in this country under our protective plant patents, and a rose named Lowell Thomas or Suspense or Fred Edmunds has a wider appeal than one named for instance Geheimrat Duisberg (Golden Rapture in America) or Gloire de Chedane Guinoisseau, unpronounceable and with no image appeal.

Because we grow so many roses produced in other countries, the San Diego Rose Society has stressed this in the theme of the 1964 show, Roses 'Round the World. There will be displays of these roses with good identification, and the Society feels this will widen the horizons of our hobby. Being aware of the origin of all your roses makes a walk around the garden a trip around the world in miniature. Seeing roses of so many countries growing and thriving happily together bolsters one's faith that someday people of all nationalities may be as adaptable and wisely live in contentment together.

A PAGE FROM THE PAST

BY HELEN D. CARSWELL

We have been repeating after Gertrude Stein for many years, "Rose is a rose is a rose." At which point, I call, "Halt!" It was not always thus. A rose was a pereskia was a cactus.

The pereskia, a West Indies plant, is thought by botanists to be the transition twixt cactus and rose. It has true leaves which are deciduous in winter, and flowers which resemble those of wild rose.

The American Rose Society lists 333 species of wild roses throughout the world and submits that there are some still undescribed.

It is an absorbing hobby to trace our modern roses back to their ancestors, follow their traits and characteristics, yield to their charm, and indulge their fables.

What is "an old rose?" In California it is often thought to be those of the Spanish era, before the days of '49. Or it might refer to specimens which have been growing for hundreds of years — like Hildesheim Rose in Germany, said to have been planted in the year 811.

Mrs. Frederick Love Keays in her book, "Old Roses" (MacMillan, 1935) says, "Old Roses are those of type and class used in good gardens of the past. But when did the past end?" The American Rose Society has attempted to establish a standard in their definition of an *Old Garden Rose* as "one whose classification was established prior to 1867, the date of introduction of the La France, the first hybrid tea."

To read about old roses is not quite the same as growing them. To accomplish both, a group of rose lovers in San Diego has formed a group "Hips and Thorns" which will devote itself to that purpose.

It would seem *Rosa californica* would be a logical start for such a group. It is, to my knowledge, the first rose mentioned in the annals of California. Father Crespi, the botanist with the Portola expedition of 1769, found it growing along the streams on their famous trek to rediscover the Bay of Monterey and remarked that it reminded them of the Rose of Castile. I have found it in the wild in North Los Angeles County near the Vasquez Rocks. Its blooms, in clusters, are a delicate pink, which later form hips: brilliant, crimson, and shiny resembling freshly washed radishes. It suckers freely and is tough enough to come up through pavement, but I have never had a bloom on it in years of effort.

Rosa californica has no relation to the Rose of Castile. Though the padres knew nothing of Vitamin C, they planted the Rose of Castile in their mission gardens for medicinal purposes, using its hips for cough syrups and ointments.

The Rose of Castile is a form of the Damask rose, *Rosa damascena*. The Damask Rose is said to have been brought back to Europe by the crusaders. Its outstanding quality is its perfume, that which we today call the true "old rose perfume" like that in the Hadley, Dame Edith Helen, and Chrysler Imperial.

At one time roses bloomed only in June or early spring. An old writer tells of the year 584: "This year many prodigies appeared, and many calamities afflicted the people, for roses were seen blooming in January, and a circle was formed around the sun." Quite a phenomenon!

Everblooming in our rose world started with the introduction of a blush tea-scented rose from China, the one thought to have been Thomas Moore's (1780-1852) inspiration for "The Last Rose of Summer."

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PELARGONIUMS

By EDITH PRATT

The present trend toward potted specimen plants makes an opportunity to use some of the new varieties of Lady Washington geraniums (*Pelargonium domesticum*). Because of the large range in their height and shape, one can achieve almost any effect.

Standard or tree forms lend a stylized formal appearance to a patio, courtyard or front entrance with an added bonus of color impact. It is desirable, therefore, to choose varieties for their height as well as for a long blooming season. Some of the fairly recent introductions which are admirably suited for tree forms are: Carmen, an early and heavy bloomer which has a lovely ruffled bright rose flower, or La Paloma—an almost pure white with small red markings. It is quite compact and may be trained to a standard. Fire dancer, with ruffled crimson flowers, is an excellent bloomer for this purpose. Mirandy, a large sturdy plant with lovely lavender-rose flowers, should also be considered. Delores, a very upright plant, has a long blooming season and charming light salmon flowers.

For pot culture, a short branching habit is obviously most desirable. Break O'Day, a handsome white delicately brushed with a pale blush on the petal edges the upper two petals heavily veined red, is superb in containers. Aztec, which is a low compact plant, blooms quite heavily for a long period. Its large flowers are of a deep red-brown becoming paler toward the petal edges with an irregular white border. Dark Venus is a 1962 introduction and its purple red flowers are on display most of the summer. They are quite wavy and of good size. Black Magic, with red almost black flowers beautifully ruffled, is becoming a great favorite for pots. It contrasts well with the other reds and is quite an eye-catcher. Rapture, a bushy grower with large ruffled flowers of apricot, blooms heavily over a long period. For patios in the summer, it makes a splendid mass of color balancing the size and power of tropical background foliage. Carefree, a species hybrid, produces a constant display of an unusual shade of vivid rose-crimson blooms. It eventually makes a very large spreading plant and its velvety gray green leaves are delightfully scented.

For color in a hanging basket, why not try some Lady Washingtons whose growth habits would be suitable? Aztec, suggested previously for pots, lends itself to a shapely basket. Red Copper, of fairly recent origin, makes a very showy basket plant with coppery rose-red flowers that seem almost fluorescent. Dawn, a large plant, should be given a try. Proper pinching will produce an outstanding plant with gorgeous apricot pink flowers of unique color. Mood Indigo bears large dark lavender flowers with purple blotches. Its thick growth is excellent—a breathtaking basket to hang under a blooming Jacaranda tree.

There are many other recent introductions which would do equally well, but these suggestions may stimulate a new point of view in your use of Lady Washington geraniums.

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CRAIG *(continued from page 9)*

only by the beardless group and the distribution of these wild forms covers the second largest area—all but the most northern part of Europe, a bit of North Africa straight east into northern India and northward taking in a good area in southern Russia. The Standard Tall Bearded irises are the giants of this group which includes the miniature dwarfs, some of which grow only 3″ tall. These have no garden value for San Diego; they bloom poorly and grow none too well. Their hybrids are currently the exciting novelties to use. I am using the newer Paul Cook hybrids extensively as are many other hybridizers. I am using a number of others from this group too. Some of our flowered seedlings are four feet tall yet have some miniature dwarfs in the pedigree.

The Standard Dwarfs are a bit larger in flower and height — up to 15″. We are using some of these in our crosses too. A number of these do better, but they are generally shy bloomers in San Diego. Included here are more plants from wide hybrid crosses.

Three classes have been set up for plants from 15″ to 28″ tall. The interpretation of these classes has been confused a bit by those using them. Further, they include all sorts of complex hybrids that are most difficult to place in any classification. Many are among the best growing irises of all.

The Table or Miniature Talls should be the most familiar to San Diego County gardeners. Alice White, until recently from Fallbrook, has been their foremost champion in all the world. Stems are wirey and well branched, flowers no bigger than 3″. The Williamson table iris, such as Warbler, are considered near ideal for the group. A very large percentage of the finer small diploid garden irises of forty years ago would fit in perfectly here.

The intermediates include the toughest of all the irises. The ones "you just can't get rid of." They are the ones that are said to have been brought in by the mission fathers: Kochii — the common purple; Albicans — the common white; Germanica — the bitone purple . . . the first iris I saw and grew shortly after I learned to walk. They then bordered many orange groves and Germanica is, I think, the one pictured on canned fruits. (Ed. note: Iris Brand.) They are nearly sterile but I have grown seeds from a crazy lot of broad crosses on most of the ones that existed in California.

Border irises include wild tetraploids too short for the 29″ minimum for Standard Tall Bearded. They include diploids of low stature but too big to be miniature. Then all sorts of new hybrids go in this group defined as 15″ to 24″ tall, flowers 4″ to 7″ in diameter. This will be an increasingly valuable garden class. Many garden uses can be found for these showy large flowered short ones and of course, lots of them will be tops in San Diego. My own variety, Moonchild, has been classified in this group and has received both the top Sass awards for that group. Later it was voted the best Border iris in commmerce by the experts. I had liked it, but held it back because there was little interest in small iris at that time. I dumped hundreds of selected clones about 20 or 25 years ago because only Eric Nies and myself liked them. I will work with them again! Many were rebloomers!

* * *

"Salute to Tom Craig" is the dedication of the first Iris Show of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society in Balboa Park on May 2nd and 3rd. The dedication is made in the greatest sincerity since all who know Tom Craig fall under the spell of his intense enthusiasm and devotion to the improvement of his plant specialties.

Tom Craig attended Pomona and the University of California. He studied zoology and biology, botany and genetics, became interested in painting, and forgot the sciences. He had a one-man show in New York and was working on a Guggenheim when World War II began. The War Department assigned him with other artist-war-correspondents to Life Magazine. In Italy, he painted the war.

After the war, he resumed an early hobby—hybridizing flowers. "Rancho de las Flores," a 250 acre ranch north of Escondido became home for Frances and Tom Craig and their five children.

In the hybridizing of iris, he seems to find a medium of expression for his never-ending interest in color and form. In 1959, his iris, Mary McClellan, won the C. G. White Aril Award. He was given the Sass Award in 1961 for Moonchild, a dwarf iris. Bang, a tall red bearded iris, won the Hybridizer's Medal for 1963. Craig has received 24 medals for his iris. Recently he was made a Senior Judge of the American Iris Society in recognition of 20 years of outstanding judging.

The article which we publish was written in Oregon. We are indebted to Mrs. Craig, in Escondido, for her help.

If you're interested in iris, join your local iris society (San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society — Mrs. Frances Lawson, P.O. Box 288, Valley Center, California) and/or the American Iris Society — 2237 Tower Grove Boulevard, St. Louis 10, Missouri.

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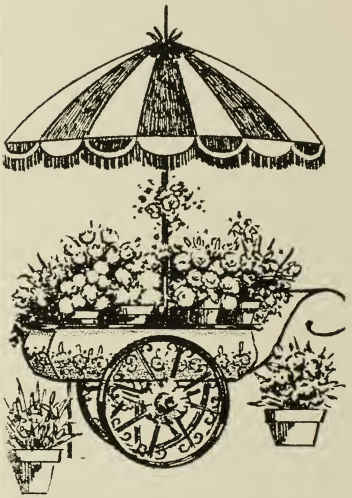

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PILLSBURY *(cont. from page 11)*

symmetry. Guard petals are not removed as a general practice, but only where such action improves the bloom. Care must be exercised to see that petal removal does not alter a variety characteristic. Some varieties such as Sutter's Gold have outer petals splashed with color not found on inner petals. Such petals should never be removed. The governing principle here is, if the removal of a petal may be detected, don't do it. Should you decide to remove a petal, grasp it between thumb and forefinger and gently rock it from side to side. This permits clean removal with no telltale stub remaining.

Occasionally you will have a good bloom a little too tight or out of symmetry. Blowing into the bloom will help to open it. You may also insert an orangewood cuticle stick or a camel's hair brush and gently press outward as you trace the petal pattern. You may also square-away a misplaced petal in this manner.

You may have an almost perfect bloom marred only by a brown spot on the petal edge (thrip damage). If you are skillful enough with a pair of cuticle scissors, a last-minute trim of the blemished edge may improve the flower. The trim must follow the natural petal contour and be so cleverly done as to elude detection, otherwise a judge may severely penalize the entry. The same holds true in the case of leaf damage. It is often best to remove a damaged leaflet, especially if it is low on the stem and not prominently placed. A missing leaflet has a better chance of escaping notice than a doctored one in most instances.

A good exhibitor disbuds early in the growth cycle of the rose. Side buds should be removed when about the size of a grain of rice. Now and then, of course, a stub remains, a side bud is overlooked, or vegetative growth is discovered late in the cycle, perhaps about show time. This must be removed even though evidence of late disbudding is penalized. The factor to remember here is that any substantial growth removed a day or two before the show, sometimes even hours before, will leave a scar that turns black and disfigures the entry. In such circumstances, leave the growth or side bud until entry time. Last minute removal (rock-and-roll system) will be less unsightly, perhaps almost unnoticeable, because green stem tissue will not have time to darken before judging. Should your effort to "rock out" the side bud leave a small stub, nippers or cuticle scissors will clean out the stub safely. Do not make the mistake of using florist's green putty or any foreign substance to conceal the wound. Such action is cause for disqualification.

It should be pointed out that the American Rose Society (ARS) rules prohibit disbudding grandifloras. This class must be exhibited naturally grown.

The exhibitor has more leeway in the case of floribundas. Disbudding is frowned on and, where noticeable, subject to penalization, yet most experts (judges included) will tell you that to achieve an optimum floresence it is generally best to remove the terminal bud at an early age. This bud opens first and is generally "spent" before the rest of the spray is at peak of perfection. Late removal of the terminal bud leaves a glaring hole in the floresence, but early removal permits other buds to expand and present a symmetrical over-all appearance.

When evaluating floribunda sprays, remember that it is the over-all impact that counts. A spray with one or two buds past the peak, among many other open ones, is often a better entry than a spray comprised mostly of tight buds and a few open ones. In choosing between two nearly equal sprays for your entry, prefer the one with the freshest pollen. Age-darkened pollen distracts from an entry.

Returning to hybrid teas, many exhibitors are puzzled by the oft-quoted statement that blooms should be one-half to three-quarters open. If you are familiar with roses and a good judge of floral beauty, you may disregard this factor which, after all, is but part of the rule. The essence of the judging rule is that the best bloom form is at its point of perfection which is generally when one-half to three-quarters open. With Eclipse and Audie Murphy, the point of perfection comes at a stage well under one-half open, while Peace and Kordes Perfecta are at their best when nearly full open.

When you have a choice between two blooms of the same variety, one a shade beyond the peak of perfection, the other the same or a slightly greater degree short of peak, prefer the latter. It has a chance to improve by the time of judging; the former can only go down hill.

Deviating from the subject of grooming, let's consider rose show psychology. This is not an analysis of rose judging, a subject that has inspired several books, but a reflection on motivating factors that influence the singling out of Queen of the Show blooms and other major award winners.

Candidates for high honors must have more than quality or near perfection. It is highly desirable that they be of exhibition form which may be roughly described as high-centered with several rows of outer petals arranged in symmetrical form and preferably quilling back. They should also have that intangible factor termed "distinction." McGredy's Yellow, Chrysler Imperial, and Royal Highness, among many others, have exhibition form. Individual specimens may or may not have distinction. If the clear color and sheen of the bloom "sing out," if petals are crisp, the bloom is of good size and at its peak of perfection, the stem is straight and of good proportions, and healthy foliage sets off the bloom, being neither too close nor too distant from the bloom, then your exhibition-type rose has distinction that sets it apart from others of equal quality but minus these special attributes.

If the trophy class calls for three or more different varieties, different colors permitted, prefer sharp contract to harmony. An entry comprised of a dark yellow, a glowing red, and a lustrous pink or a gleaming white will carry more impact than a vase of three different whites, pinks, or reds.

Avoid the Mutt and Jeff effect of an entry that includes a short-stemmed rose and others with long stems, also any combination of blooms of materially different sizes. Such entries lack distinction.

Other factors being equal, an entry that includes one or two roses of recent introduction will command more attention than one comprised of old standbys. In this style-conscious world, newness is a plus factor. Good luck!

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ROLAND HOYT RECOMMENDS

Russelia equisetiformis (from a remote similarity to Equisetum, the horsetail) commonly known as "coralplant," due to the decided coloring of the flowers or as "fountain-plant" from the arching-drooping habit of growth, with "coralblow" the most appropriate common name, considering color along with the filmy, graceful, and stemmy body of the plant and its activity in the breeze. It was almost, but not altogether forgotten after these many years of useful accommodation to gardens in Southern California. It was named for Alexander Russell (1786) an English physician, traveller and patron of botany. The species comes from Mexico, and has naturalized in Florida and in the West Indies. This has not happened in California or in Arizona other than in gardens with optimum moisture.

The plant is much branched with squarish stems 3-10′ in slender length, almost herbaceous in character, the leaves small and partially or at times, completely reduced to bractlike appendages . . . very scant in foliage . . . leaving that function largely to the greenish, sharply creased stems. The flow of these stems bring about

Alfred Hottes

a depressed area at the top of the plant, so that a well-grown, spreading specimen takes on the semblance of a fountain . . . crimson-flecked light in the sun. The flowers dangle in the air on thread-like pedicels, a soft red in a little shade, single or in two or three flowered clusters, each narrowed to an inch-long instance, open-mouthed and two-lipped. Blooming follows the moisture pattern largely probably intermittent as water occurs or is applied, mostly spring-summer in gardens.

Appropriate use will center on cool banks, a walltop where stems may suspend in shreddy filaments against the face. (A fine specimen overhanging wall at northeast corner of First and Redwood, San Diego). It may be grown in a container, even in a basket for a time or blocked in the cement of a contemporary terrace for a softening, colorful effect. The plant does satisfactorily in any reasonable soil, probably best in a light one, with drainage important as in sunlight, although a little crossing shade sometime during the day is acceptable.

The plant is easily propagated in the spring with cuttings in sand and will be seen from time to time in nurseries . . . most recently by the writer In the Walter Andersen Nursery of San Diego and only "yesterday" in De Haan's Shoreline Nursery of Leucadia, California. Rosecroft Gardens, Point Loma, has Russelia in hanging baskets.

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AMEELE *(continued from page 15)*
enjoy root tips and tender new growths, but they can be kept under control by using bait containing metaldehyde. Scale is another common problem, but malathion and DDT are both effective against this troublemaker. Red spider mites can be detected by the silvery scratchy appearances of the undersides of the leaves, where the sap has been sucked away, and mites can be controlled with kelthane and malathion. Diseases such as rot and virus can seldom be cured once they have made inroads, so the best way to handle them is never to let them get a start. Cleanliness, good air circulation, sterilization of cutting tools and segregation of infected plants are a few things that all growers should practice.

POTTING MATERIALS and CONTAINERS: There seems to be just about as many different potting mixes as there are cymbidium growers. About the only thing that most growers seem to agree on is that medium Palco chips (redwood bark) are an important ingredient. Some use it straight, but most mix with other things such as fir bark, peat moss, oak leaves, redwood shavings and sand. Some add nutrients, others do not. At the present time, I'm using a potting mix than consists of 2 parts Palco chips, 2 parts fir bark, 1 part redwood shavings. I used to use 4 parts Palco chips, 3 parts fir bark, 2 parts peat moss and 1 park oak leaves. Plants grew beautifully in it, but because of the organic content, the mix broke down more rapidly and necessitated more frequent repotting. Whatever mix you should decide on, remember that it must be enough to have excellent drainage, but still hold moisture. Cymbidiums love moisture, but they can't tolerate a soggy compost. At one time clay pots were considered the only containers suitable for growing orchids. Today, there is a marked increase in the use of redwood tubs and plastic pots. These containers hold moisture better than the clay pots, and are more economical.

REPOTTING and DIVIDING: Cymbidiums normally require repotting when the pot becomes filled with bulbs or when the compost breaks down. Normally this occurs about every two or three years. Repotting should be done immediately after blooming. The earlier in the spring that it can be done, the more time the plant will have to reestablish itself and put up a good strong growth during the summer. After the plant is taken from the container, the old compost should be removed by gently shaking the plant or washing the roots with a soft stream of water. Old leaves, dead roots, etc., should be removed with a sterilized knife and the plant generally cleaned up. Leafless back-bulbs may be removed at this time and saved for propagation. If the plant is large, you may wish to divide it, rather than shift it to a larger container. If so, remember that each division should consist of three to five green bulbs to assure flowering the following season. Seal all cuts and wounds in the bulbs with Tree Seal. Select a container large enough to accommodate two years' growth. It's usually a good idea to enlarge drainage holes and place a piece of broken crock over the hole to prevent it becoming clogged with compost. Spread the roots out in the pot and carefully work moist compost around and among the roots. Cymbidiums should be potted firmly and the compost should just cover the base of the bulbs. When repotting is completed, the top of the compost should be about an inch below the rim of the pot. It's helpful to plant recovery to place the plants in a shady spot and to spray them lightly with water every day. After about 10 days they can be moved back to their regular location and normal watering and feeding routine can be resumed. The leafless back-bulbs can be propagated by setting the bulb in a shallow box of damp redwood shavings or Palco chips and keeping it in a warm shady location. In a few months, when new growths are well established and roots are developing, the bulb can be potted up in compost and treated like the rest of your plants. Back-bulb propagations bloom in two or three years.

MINIATURES: These delightful ¼ size cymbidiums are sky-rocketing in popularity. They're easy to grow, take up little space and produce myriads of colorful flowers. Their culture is basically the same as for conventional-size cymbidiums, except that they can be grown under warmer conditions and do not require the 20° drop in temperature for bud initiation. The one change from regular cymbidium culture that I would suggest would be to cut down somewhat on fertilization.

There you have the fundamentals of cymbidium growing. The moment of truth comes in August, September and October when you poke among the foliage and are rewarded by finding flower spikes coming up. That and the thrill of watching a beautiful flower unfold are the rewards of the cymbidium grower.

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A Calendar of Care

☐ ROSES

In your own garden bare-root planting should be completed by now. Mulching will help make your enjoyment carefree: free of weeds, more free of disease, and free of frequent watering. If you haven't mulched—do so. Saw-dust and/or wood chips are probably cheaper in this region than any other material. For the large garden a whole truck load is not expensive and for the small garden your friendly nurseryman has bales of wood shavings at a reasonable price. Other mulches might be more decorative but are more expensive. These range from crushed volcanic rock to redwood bark pebbles. Remember that any cellulose product like sawdust which decomposes relatively rapidly needs the addition of nitrogen so that the decomposition process does not rob the rose plant of this much needed element. Hoof and horn is a long lasting source although it is probably just as good to spray once in a while with a high nitrogen soluble plant food sufficiently dilute so that the foliage is not damaged. This need for extra nitrogen is continuous for a year or more until the cellulose is completely decomposed. It is not sufficient to add an excess amount of ammonium sulphate or nitrate all at once as is sometimes advised.

A spray program should be well underway by now. For several years I have advocated frequent (every other day or so) early morning applications, using very dilute solutions and the cheapest hose-end sprayer. This might sound heretic in some circles, but with this type of sprayer I can cover our 300 roses in about 20 minutes. Washing the foliage free of bugs and spores does as much good as anything, but I usually have in the water small quantities of a good foliar food such as Country Squire Rose Food and every third or fourth time, Acti-Dione—PM, as a fungicide and occasionally Cygon for insects. This regimen keeps the roses free of everything except an occasional beetle or caterpillar. Some wettable DDT or an application of rose dust will take care of them. Rachel Carson to the contrary, I prefer to keep our garden sterile rather than pit one insect against another. We've tried Nature's method with very little success. A by-product of the use of Cygon is that we have not had an ant in the house since using it.

To give an idea of the dilution of these materials I use—the sprayer is supposed to deliver 15 gallons of spray by the time a quart container is empty. To each quart of water in the container I use one heaping tablespoonful of Acti-Dione-PM, two tablespoonsful of Cygon and two ounces of Country Squire. Notice that these are individual applications—not combined. If you have time to spray only once every two weeks, you had better do it correctly with a Hayes hose and end sprayer or a pressure type and then follow the directions on the label. My "quickie" method is not for you.

Dr. Donald A. Wilson
Pres. S.D. Rose Society

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☐ DAHLIAS

Dahlia planting time along the coast in Southern California is best during April and May. June is good also for the late summer flowers. In the back country or in the frost areas the planting time should be delayed until normal conditions permit safety from frost. Even when dahlias are planted early they do not achieve the rapid growth they need at the start until the soil is warm.

Any gardener can enjoy the prolific color provided by dahlias from early summer to late fall. You don't have to be a specialist. Just give them average care as is required to have any kind of flowers. Like other flowers, dahlias respond to good care.

First of importance in planting dahlias is to turn the bed to a depth of 12 to 18 inches or more. If the soil will grow other annuals it will grow dahlias, but sandy loam with a good humus content to give tilth is best.

The smaller varieties—pompons and miniatures — need about 24 inches square per plant; the mediums and large varieties, about 36. Dwarf varieties and the small varieties can be planted as close as 12 inches apart in borders or as bedders.

At each spot selected for the location of a plant (except bedders) the gardener should place a stake (1 x 1) solidly enough to provide support. At the base of the stake, dig a planting hole 6 to 8 inches deep and large enough to hold the dahlia tuber on its side.

The tuber's eye should look up and be placed about 2 inches from the stake. Tubers that already have sprouted may be planted, with care taken to protect the sprout or little plant that might be taking shape; the soil must be kept loose enough to permit continued growth of the shoot.

The tuber should be covered with two or three inches of soil and the planting hole filled gradually as the plant grows.

Normally, a good watering when the tuber is planted will keep the soil moist enough until the plant develops a good pair of leaves. After that the plant needs water when the top of the soil is dry.

In addition to regular watering, the plant must be sprayed regularly to discourage insects. Once a week is recommended. Also recommended is regular feeding about once a month with 4-10-10, or bulb food, or fish fertilizer in liquid form.

When the plant has three or four sets of leaves it should be topped—the tip growth pinched out as you would treat a chrysanthemum plant. Additional pinching as the plant grows will make the smaller varieties more bushy, more floriferous, and the flowers smaller.

Reducing the number of canes and the buds on each cane to one will improve the quality and size of the medium and large varieties. To get the most out of the largest varieties, plants should be restricted to four or five canes at a time.

When the large ones are planted, the gardener wants maximum size in his flowers. This can be attained with extra care, and with such varieties as the currently popular Lula Pattie (white) the average gardener can have dahlias 12 inches or more across and 10 or more deep.

Big blooms mean hungry plants. To feed them start with composted steer mixed liberally in the soil at planting time. Add a cup of bone meal stirred into the soil when the hole is scooped out for the tuber. Feed with liquid fish fertilizer the first time the little plant is watered. Then feed every two or three weeks with 4-10-10 or 6-12-10 until the first bud shows color. Go easy on the nitrogen. Then add one tablespoon of bloodmeal to the other fertilizer each time, step up the watering to keep the plant blooming, and stand by with the tape measure and an open phone line to summon the neighbors!

Larry Sisk
San Diego County Dahlia Society

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FUCHSIAS

Proper moisture in the earth and air around Fuchsias is the most important thing to watch in this climate after partial shade, and wind protection. They need regular thorough watering with occasional leeching to take care of the mineral problem in both earth and water here in Southern California. Basket and container plants may be dangerously dry in cool foggy weather before you know they need water, especially if there is wind. Being good adaptable feeders, Fuchsias grow fine, bloom, rest, and bloom again all season in a good rich slightly acid soil even without much fertilizing. In this area, however, best results come from regular feeding every 2 to 4 weeks of a good fish-emulsion base from April to October. Some growers like at least one dry commercial feeding early in Spring. Worms or caterpillars, sometimes a pest in early growth, are easily controlled with DDT and your nurseryman can recommend a good tested control containing malathion or other insecticide for such pests as red spider, thrip, white fiy, or aphis. Sprays are best used in mild form and only as necessary. Several dependable Nurseries in this area now specialize in Fuchsias both wholesale and retail to satisfy the great and growing demand for them, and some browsing there can help greatly in choosing and planning your plants for proper function and pleasing effects. The many new varieties are worth any gardeners interest and trial. In another a memo of the varieties of types best suited to different locations and purposes in the garden may be of interest.

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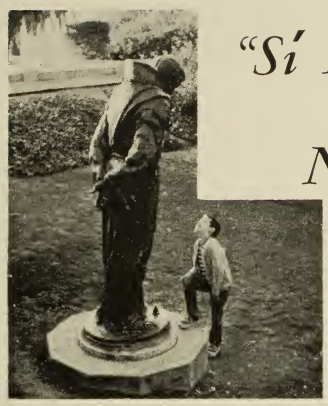

"Sí Padre! Something Nice Has Happened!"

WHEN PRESIDIO PARK—a gift to the city of Mr. George W. Marston—was dedicated on July 16, 1929, it seemed to comprise, with its newly sown lawns and freshly planted trees and shrubs, everything that grateful citizens could hope for in beauty and expansiveness. The fact that a small parcel on the lower road, where it joined Taylor St. at the beginning of the Valley, had "held out," was unimportant and unknown (though perhaps a disappointment to Mr. Marston at the time.)

However, through the years the picture has changed. The beautifully landscaped contour road down the hill, becoming Chestnut Street at its north end, joins the main thoroughfare of Taylor Street with the greenery and trees of the Park still around and above it—but as one proceeds to the intersection, where the main, logical entrance to the Park should be, for a whole block one must pass exclusively commercial holdings. The block to the east is and has been, particularly an eyesore, comprising as it does a liquor store and three highly unbeautiful small buildings.

Through the efforts of a dedicated group of people, among them chiefly the architect, Mr. Homer Delawie, Mr. Hamilton Marston, Mr. Tom Crist and Mr. Armistead Carter, plus the earnest and devoted efforts of the group known as Citizens Coordinate, something has now been done. The problem has progressed beyond the talking point to the realm of actual accomplishment. The City has promised to give one half of the funds necessary to make this area what it should be—a worthy entrance to a handsome park. When rumors of competition for the block (for a gas station there would be no improvement over things as they are) came along, members of the group took the situation in hand and out of the danger zone by putting up the money first, regarding it as a trust for the people. (The block is now in escrow.)

The next step is the raising of half the total amount, to meet the city's contribution; this to be about $30,000. A campaign has been proceeding quietly and with astonishing spontaneity on the part of givers; so far little of the customary prodding has been required. However, it is no time to be over optimistic; the importance of the project is great. The corner of Taylor and Chestnut, fronting on a main street, is the historial and logical approach to the area; it should be made as satisfyingly beautiful as the rest.

Alice W. Heyneman

This corner, now being purchased, will be landscaped to make a worthy entrance to Presidio Park.

Photo Courtesy "California Review"

THE OLD ROSE GARDEN at the WHALEY HOUSE

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB and HIPS AND THORNS

By
Janet Richards

Roy Lawton, president of Hips and Thorns, tells us that the organization is made up of 15 couples. James Kirby, president of the Men's Garden Club, who also belongs to Hips and Thorns, admits that the name was very forthrightly selected: the terms refer not only to roses but to the fact that membership includes ladies and gentlemen.

It isn't exactly simple the way the organization came to be, but as far as we were able to discover it goes something like this . . .

There was the Whaley House. Its history is known to most San Diegans. Briefly, it was built by Thomas Whaley in Old Town in 1857. It is the oldest brick structure in Southern California. Its granary was converted into a room which served as the San Diego County Courthouse in 1869. In 1956 the house was scheduled for demolition. A group of San Diegans quickly formed the Historical Shrine Foundation of San Diego County and among 20 members of its board raised $10,000 as a down payment to hold it. The group then convinced the County of San Diego that the house should be preserved as an historical museum, and restored to its early day splendor.

The house has been restored and refurnished. It is a handsome building—not just a monument to the history of San Diego, but a continuing compliment to the County and its people.

Then there was Mrs. June Redding, of the Historical Shrine Foundation and board member of the San Diego Historical Society, who became the curator of Whaley House.

"Good preservation," says she, "requires a landscape plan." She knew that an historical museum needed a beautiful setting with some authenticity. Among her friends to whom she spoke about this was Mrs. Eric Draper.

Now it happens that Mrs. Draper lives across the street from Mrs. Eugene Cooper who, at that time, was president of the San Diego Floral Association. Mrs. Draper deftly posed the problem to Mrs. Cooper who invited Mrs. Redding to speak to the Floral Association. At the same meeting, Roy Lawton reported on the newly formed Men's Garden Club stating that one of their purposes was city beautification.

That Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Redding put city beautification and the needs of the Whaley House together was unavoidable. Mr. Lawton was asked if the Men's Garden Club would be interested in putting in an Old Rose Garden at Whaley House. They were.

But that's not all.

Mrs. Whaley had carefully recorded the names of all the roses she had planted. Her youngest of six, Lily, had preserved the papers well.

With the list of roses Mrs. Whaley had planted a hundred years ago, the Men's Garden Club arrived at Will Tillotson's Roses in Watsonville.

To Mrs. Dorothy Stemler, owner of Tillotson's, they explained what they were trying to accomplish, the typical lack of funds, and appealed for a "price" in order to get the most for Whaley House. As Mr. Lawton describes it, Mrs. Stemler replied:

"I'll go you one better. I'll *give* you the roses and I'd like an opportunity to help with the landscape plan."

In the selection of roses, Mrs. Stemler suggested that they not limit themselves to the roses which Mrs. Whaley had, but that they go one step further into history and use also those roses in the genealogy of the plants involved. Thus we have a garden of Rose Genealogy; some of the 80 varieties planted are of Biblical origin.

Mrs. Whaley's selections were typical of the early California gardens in which the owners brought a little of "back east" "out west." The profusion of lilacs in Julian is an example of a plant which has survived "going west."

The technicalities accomplished, permission to plant from the Board of Supervisors, and an understanding with the Public Works Department about the care of the garden, the roses were planted by the Men's Garden Club on March 23, 1963 with some help from the San Diego Floral Association.

On October 5th, 1963 the garden was dedicated to the memory of Thomas Whaley, San Diego Pioneer, who built the house in 1857.

There had been a group of rose growers who, from time to time, had enjoyed discussing "Old Roses" prior to this occasion. With the planting of the garden and Mrs. Helen Carswell's urging, it seemed propitious to make a proper organization. Thus came Hips and Thorns.

This group had its third meeting in February in the courtroom of the Whaley House. At that meeting, the stories of four old roses as searched out by four members were given. James Kirk reported on the Scotch Rose, *Rosa spinisissima*. Carl Truby, vice-president of the San Diego Rose Society, told the story of Austrian Copper. John Farleigh, past-president of the San Diego Rose Society, did the Maman Cochet story. Bertha Benson, who recently served as general chairman of the San Diego Rose Show, told of the Marchioness of Londonderry.

The group will meet four times a year to hear knowledgeable speakers and further reports on old roses.

The Old Rose Garden at Whaley House was planted and is being pruned and cared for by the Men's Garden Club. Its blooms will make the subjects of study for Hips and Thorns.

Our thanks to both organizations, to Mrs. Dorothy Stemler, and to the ladies and organizations who contributed to the creation of this intriguing landscape.

And a little more. There's still Mrs. June Redding who says,

"I want the garden to look like the Los Angeles Arboretum. I want those nice big labels so you don't have to dig down in the sawdust to find out what you're looking at."

It gives you a warm and friendly feeling about the old town. Go see.

Photo upper left corner, opposite page:
In Presidio Park, Bronze of Franciscian Priest by Putnam.
Young boy, Mike Bowman.

Photo by Sim Richards, III.

California GARDEN